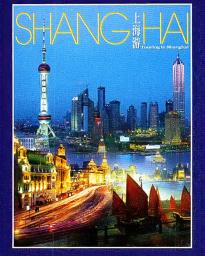


Come to China to Experience Our Successful Story of "Made in China"

You may be interested in knowing how a small firm has become the world's No.1 fan manufacturer in the past 30 years.
You are welcome to visit our totally new fan manufacturing base occupied with 3 million square feet.





Shanghai has evolved at an unprecedented speed for decades into the biggest commercial city in China and one of the great metropolises of the world. Favourably located at the mouth of the Yangtse River, Shanghai has a long history and a rich culture. Commercial tower blocks and traditional buildings exude their individual charms simultaneously in the Pudong District, where hundreds of buildings in different styles, old or new, are collectively known as the Exposition of World Architecture. A kaleidoscope of entertainments and festivals of Old Shanghai attracts scores of entrepreneurs and travellers alike. "Touring in Shanghai" takes you deeper into this vibrant city

through spectacular photography, along with outlines for more than 10 different kinds of tours including a shopping tour, popular tourist sights, cultural excursions, and more. Practical information summarises accommodations, transport and dining options, and tourist maps are also included. "Touring in Shanghai" is the latest, most comprehensive travel pictorial of Shanghai available in Hong Kong.

Now a 20% off is offered to our readers

Original price HK\$120.00
Discounted price
HK\$96.00

Copies:

Postage (Surface mail per copy):

- ☐ Hong Kong HK \$15.00
- ☐ Macao, China, Taiwan HK \$22
- ☐ Asian countries (except Japan) HK \$36
- □ Non-Asian countries (including Japan) HK \$38

Name: ______ Subscription #_____ if applicable

Daytime tel.: _____ E-mail address: _____

Address:

Payment method:

- ☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to 'Hong Kong China Tourism Press'
- □ Credit card □ VISA □ MASTER □ AE

Cardholder's name:

Card number:

Signature: _____ Total amount (book + postage): _____

Please return your completed form either by fax to (852) 2561-8196 or mail to Subscription Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

For more information, please call us on tel. # (852) 2561-8001, Subscription Department.



Mt. Huangshan, south of Anhui

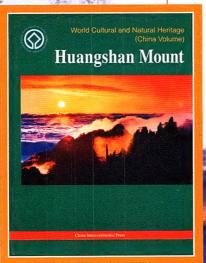
situated in the

Province, is one of the most famous scenic areas in China. Being put into the World Heritage List, it is also granted with two laurels of cultural heritage and natural heritage by the UNESCO's World Heritage Commission.

The landscape of the mountain is a typical granite hoodoo landform shaped during the long geological periods by several tectonic movements in the crust. Mt. Huangshan has long been famous for its strange-looking pine trees, grotesque rocks, sea of clouds and hot springs.

All over one thousand metres above sea level, there are 77 peaks in the scenic area of almost two hundred square kilometres. Granite rock forests and rock columns together with massive rocks scatter everywhere. Moreover, Mt. Huangshan is a diverse ecosystem with a treasure of wildlife. There are approximately 1450 species of plants, 300 species of vertebrates and 170 species of birds.

Combined unique scenery and magnificent sea of clouds, the beauty of Mt. Huangshan has continued to fascinate endless visitors. Catch a glimpse of its glory in this "Huangshan Mount" pictorial that is filled with breath-taking images taken by our team of photographers!



Listed price HK \$70/US \$9

Tel./E	-mail:
Overseas order	
PRC	Other countries
HK \$105 / US \$13.5	HK \$121 / US \$15.5
	Overseas order PRC

Cheque Payable to Hong Kong China Tourism Press

Credit Card:	□ VISA	☐ MASTER	□ AE		
Name of Cardho	lder:			Card no	_
Expiry date:		Total amo	ount:	Signature: _	

Please return to:

Circulation dept. 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20, Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong or fax to (852) 2561-8196.

CACONTENTS 292



- 7 From the Editor
- 9 Calendar
- 10 Update
- 12 Travel Notes
- 14 Feature

Nine Dragons — Nirvana in Sichuan

Photos & Article by Lin Jinhua

The Nine Dragons has a well-preserved indigenous ecology. The region Wuxuhai is comparable to the awe-inspiring plateau lakes in Jiuzhaigou. And apart from the natural forest in Mt. Wahuishan, there is the verdant prairie, Riluku, and the dashing Yalong River.

56 Discoveries

The Melancholy Reindeer Town

Photos by Huang Yanhong Article by Huang Yanhong and Waliya

The nearly 200 Ewenki people in the Aoluguya Township of Inner Mongolia live mostly on hunting and raising reindeer. Their ancestors originally lived northeast of Lake Baikal in Russia and in the mountain forest by the Silka River on the upper reaches of the Heilongjiang River.

66 City Snaps

Nightlife in Changsha

Photos & Article by Chen Xu

Changsha is an ancient capital that was once a "red" site heavily imbued with revolutionary propaganda. But following the implementation of the opening-up policies, a market economy has transformed the city into a modern hive of business, with an equally rich nightlife.





56



SAVE OFF THE NEWSSTAND PRICE



ALONG THE COAST OF LIAONING

years subscription (24 issues)

HK \$540

Gift: China's 23 World Heritage Sites

Overseas Subscription Rates						
	Surfa	ce Mail	Air Mail			
Region	1 year	2 years	1 year	2 years		
PRC, Macao and Taiwan	HK\$451/US\$58	HK\$850/US\$109	HK\$690/US\$89	HK\$1328/US\$171		
Asian countries (except Japan)	US\$69	US\$130	US\$89	US\$171		
Japan and non-Asian countries	US\$70	US\$133	US\$102	US\$197		

☐ Additional charge for Registered Mail HK\$156/US\$20 per year.

☐ Additional charge for US cheque US \$7

Subscriber's	Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Ms)	resend me China's 23 World Heritage Sites Tel: Country:
Method of Payment	Total payment: HK\$/US\$ Cheque enclosed made payable to "HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS" Please debit my credit card VISA MASTER AE Card no.: Expiry date: Signature:	

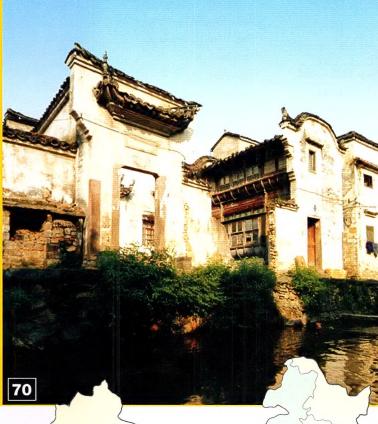
Please return to: HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Circulation Department), 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8196

CAPPA 292 Contents 292







70 On the Way

Qinchuan Village: Keeping the Legacy Alive

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

A nation is generally most ruthless to its traditions and culture during the economic takeoff. Fortunately there are exceptions.

76 Culture

Rejuvenating Art

Paintings provided by Yang Zhiming Article by Chan Yat Nin

78 Excursions

A Walking Tour of Macao's Cultural Heritage

Photos & Article provided by the Macao Government Tourist Office

Apart from being a hot spot for gambling, Macao is also rich in cultural heritage. Its classical western architecture, ancient temples, parks and lighthouses are made for pleasant walks.

80 Photography

The Secret to Hazy Charming Pictures: Reflex Lens

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

82 Culinary Delights

Taipei Season for Chefs

Photos & Article by Maggie Lam

To promote the 3rd annual Taipei Season for Chefs, the mayor of Taipei has gamely taken up the role of a special guest chef to introduce some of Taipei's signature restaurants to the world. Discerning gourmands are going to have a field day!

85 Next Issue

86 Feature Destination



Inner Mongolia



Nine Dragons, Sichuan Province (by Lin Jinhua)



Consultants (In alphabetical order) Ian Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun, Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi, James T. Wu, Howard Young Director Tchan Fou-li Vice Director & Editor-in-Chief Wang Miao **Deputy General Managers** Kathy Wong, James Jiang, Connie Lee Executive Editor-in-Chief Ma Yiu Chun Deputy Editors-in-Chief Tu Nai Hsien, Chan Yat Nin Director of Editorial Department Dianna Lau Deputy Directors of Editorial Department Xie Guanghui, Huang Yanhong **English Editors** Zuo Jun, Maggie Lam Director of Art Department Norris Tong Designers Y. Y. Lau, W. Y. Yuen, M. Y. Li, S. Y. Leung Assistant Designer Lily Lam **Advertising Manager** Yu Xifan China Account Managers Tung Wai Ning, Shi Tiantong Manager of Sales & Marketing Department Connie Lee (concurrent) **Business Development Manager** James Jiang (concurrent)

Publisher: HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS

Director of Accounts & Administration Dept.

24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057/ 2561 8196

Kathy Wong (concurrent)

Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001 China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001

E-mail: English Editorial Dept: edit-e@hkctp.com.hk

Advertising Dept: ad@hkctp.com.hk

Sales & Marketing Dept: mktg@hkctp.com.hk

Photo Library: plib@hkctp.com.hk

Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228 Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: Australia Gordon and Gotch Ltd., • Belgium Sun Wah Supermarket • Brazil Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltd. • Canada and US Supreme Books Company [852] 2696 3364; LMPI (1) 514-355 5610 • China National Publications Import & Export Corp., Beijing • England Guanghwa Company Ltd., London • France Europasie S.A.R.L., Paris • Holland Ming Ya, Amsterdam • Hong Kong Foreign Press Distributors Ltd. • Japan Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo • Macau Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • Malaysia Book & Publications Link Sdn Bhd. [586030K] • Singapore BPL(S)Pte Ltd (65) 6749 3651 • Thailand Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • The Philippines Good Quality Merchandising, Manila

China Tourism monthly magazine is available on the scheduled flights, and at VIP lounges, guest rooms and counters of the following organisations:













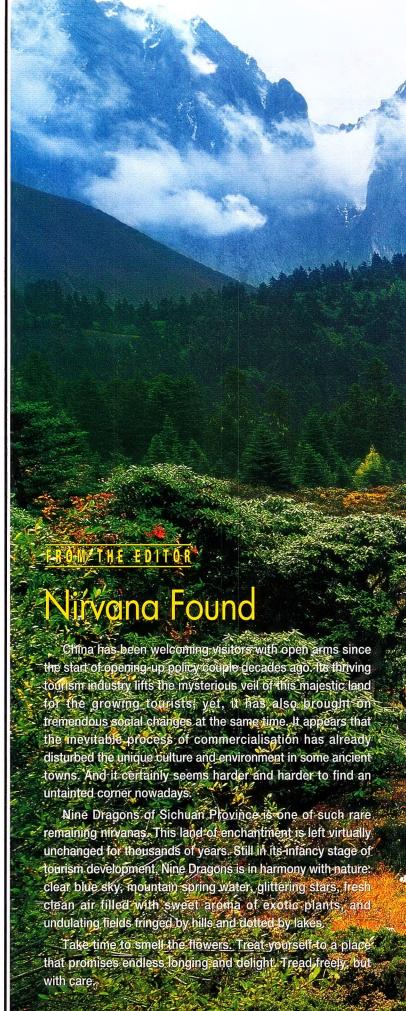
China Advertising License: ICAD006

News-stand price: HK\$38/ \$\$7.00/ U\$\$6.95/ CAN\$8.95

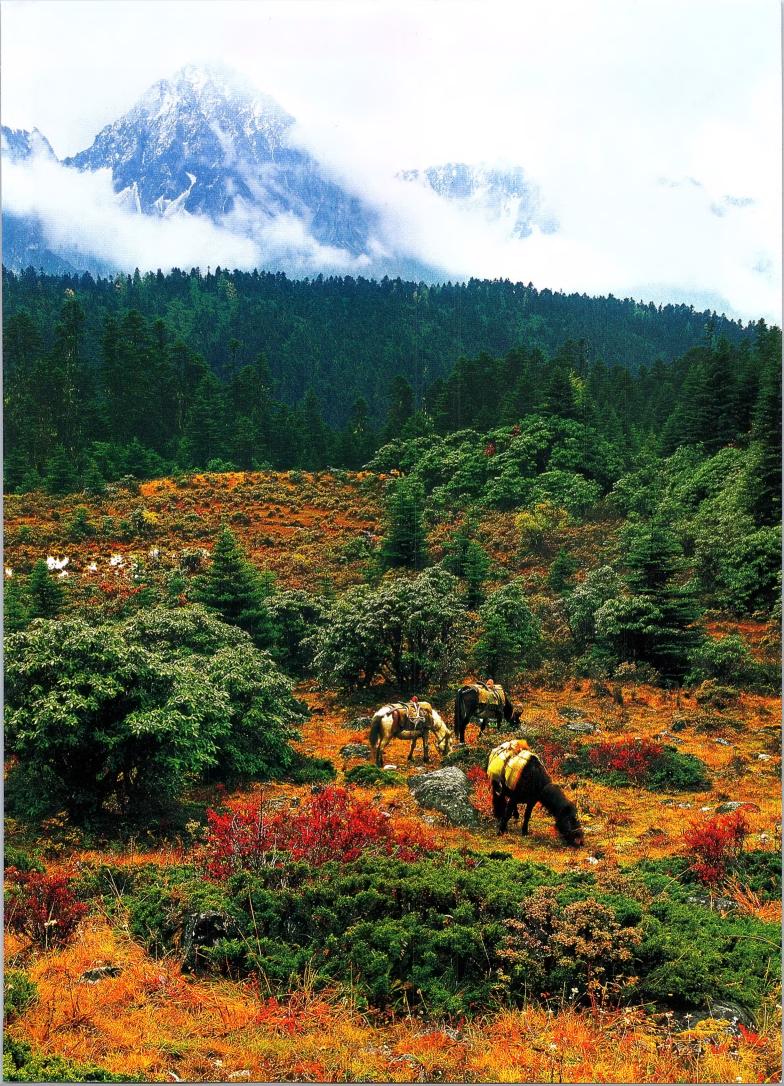
Printed in Hong Kong

Copyright reserved

No.292 Nov/Dec 2004



Wuxuhai of Nine Dragons (by Lin Jinhua)





TOP SERVICE
TO BUSINESS TRAVELLERS
AND TOURISTS ALIKE

Services include:

- * Worldwide hotel reservations
- * International flight bookings
- * Hotel packages
- * Organised tours of China, Asia, the United States, Canada and Europe
- * Cruises and holiday packages
- * Car rental service
- * Launch rental service
- * Eurail pass
- * Visa service

Service Hotline: 2516 9228 (Agnes Wat) Fax: 2563 7994 E-mail: travel@hkctp.com.hk

>%



Dec 7 Lhasa, Tibet

he Butter Lamp Festival falls on the 15th day of the 1st Tibetan month. It was established by religion master Tsong Khap (1357-1419), who was the founder of the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama's order. The festival celebrates the victory of Sakyamuni against heretics in a religious debate. Various giant butter and Tsampa sculptures, in forms of auspicious symbols and figures, will be displayed on the traditional Tibetan marketplaces. Worshippers usually keep singing and dancing throughout the festive night.

Now till Nov 21

Macao Museum of Art, Macao

Museum bring to Macao the

works of two of the most

notable Chinese artists

from the 17th century — Ba

Da Shan Ren and Shi Tao at

the exhibition Rules by

the Master. This is the first

time that these works are

exhibited outside of

Mainland China.

he Palace Museum of

Beijing and Shanghai



Dec 6-19 HK City Hall, Hong Kong

he 26th French Cinepanorama presented by The Alliance Francaise of Hong Kong will be an excellent opportunity to get a closer look at current French cinema. This year's selection consists mostly of independent, art-house, experimental and auteurdriven work. In addition, documentaries are chosen for the first time, showcasing works by wellknown filmmakers such as Raymond Depardon and Flagrante Delicto.

Golden Hill Temple, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province

he traditional custom of tolling the bell at Golden Hill Temple to welcome the New Year originated more than 1.500 years ago. On the New Year's eve, the Golden Hill Temple will hold the Grand Bell-tolling **Ceremony**, which attracts more than 10,000 domestic and foreign tourists every year. Visitors may also choose to take a night tour of the Golden Hill and the souvenir market.



Nov 2-6 Nanning City, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

he Zhuang people, who love to sing folk songs, usually express their loving feelings through songs. This year, the Nanning Internaional Folk Song Art Festival will be held simultaneously with the China-Asean Expo. During the festival, Chinese and foreign folk singers will perform classical and modern folk songs. In addition, Guangxi Food Expo and Chinese Folk Song Invitational Tournament will be organised to showcase the art of folk song.

Nov 12-14 Xiangtan, Hunan Province

he first Qi Baishi International Cultural Art Festival will be held to mark the 140th anniversary of Qi's birthday.

Qi's paintings, along with poems, calligraphy and seal cutting, made him a unique talent throughout the world. In 1955, he was honoured by the World Peace Council for his contribution to peace through his art. The festival will include opening and closing ceremonies, launching of the Qi Baishi commemoration hall, art forums and auctions.

Nov 1-30 Taroko National Park, **Hualien County, Taiwan**

he Taroko International Marathon is the only marathon in the world that takes place in a spectacular gorge. Ever since its first running in 2000, it has attracted top competitors from more than a dozen countries. The vertical marble walls of the gorge make it a heaven for geologists and a worldclass heritage site, and the rich variety of plants and animals as well as natural scenery give it a rare allure.



Ba Da Shan Ren's work had a great influence on artists such as the "Eight Immortals of Yangzhou" (Yangzhou Ba Guai), whereas Shi Tao explored new techniques and revolutionised the artistic field. The exhibition will show the artists' works evolving through different periods, making it easy for anyone to understand the importance of these two masters in the history of Chinese art.





Qinghai Lake's Proposed Luxury Cruise Halted

The Qinghai provincial government has suspended a planned tourism project, which consisted of a luxury cruise service offered by a private tourist agency. Billed as a four-star hotel on the water, the 80-m-long ship was designed with facilities for dining, lodging and entertainment. But the commercial plan met with opposition from scientists immediately after it was announced.

Qinghai Lake covers 4,232 km² in the northern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. It is the largest salt lake in China and is famous for its beautiful scernery.

As the lake is a closed inland with no water outlet, scientists are concerned about the buildup of pollutants from the ship which could destroy the ecological balance of the lake area. Provincial environmental protection authorities will organise experts to study the academicians' concerns and reevaluate the project.

Guangzhou Stone House Receives Revivals

The famous Guangzhou Roman Catholic Church, or Stone House, the largest of its kind in South China, is experiencing its biggest ever remodelling job.

Stone House was built with mostly granite by a French architect in 1888 and had rehabbed twice in its history. The first phase of the rehabilitation this time costs more than 20 million yuan (US \$2.37 million). It includes reconstruction of the leaky roof, replacement of all 98 windows, re-stringing all lights and wires inside the church, rebuilding corridors, stairs, and exterior walls.

The second phase of reconstruction, which is scheduled to be completed in 10 years, will focus on improving the environment around the church. A primary school nearby will be moved to give way for a garden. Some buildings will also be bulldozed for construction of two squares.

Ancient Warships Excavated

Chinese archaeologists had excavated the sunken warships used by General Zheng Chenggong and his followers when reclaiming Taiwan from Dutch occupiers more than three centuries ago.

The ruins of Zheng's fleet were found near Dongshan Island in east China's Fujian Province. But local people had found bowls, plates and other porcelain wares with the seals of Zheng Chenggong a decade before the official discovery. More than 20 underwater archaeologists from the National Museum in Beijing recently discovered broken china pieces, cannonballs, grenades, iron blocks and muddy sand mixed with gun powder.

Zheng Chenggong was born in 1624, the year Dutch invaders occupied Taiwan. His troops drove the invaders off the island in 1662, and Zheng died on the island the same year.

Lhasa Anxious to Restore Traditional Outlook

A project was launched in Lhasa to help this capital city put on a more traditional Tibetan look. All houses and buildings along the Yutuo Road and the Kangang Road, which connect the World Heritage Sites of the Potala Palace and the Jokhang Temple, will be expected to present a Tibetan style by the end of November.

Lhasa witnessed rapid development in urban construction, at the same time, it is losing its traditional flavour of ethnic Tibetan culture. Many areas in the city are

occupied by modern buildings, and colourful advertisement boards of western comodities can be seen. The renovation project may not be able to halt the tide of capitalism rushing into this last paradise on Earth, but surely will be appreciated by tourists from all over the world.



Renovation of Shaolin Temple Completed



Shaolin Temple, cradle of the famous Shaolin martial arts, has just finished an extensive renovation project recently. In the past, the temple can only accommodate 3,000 visitors at a time, but now it is able to entertain 10,000 visitors simultaneously.

The temple

undergone a complete renovation of the key hall near the main entrance, the minor halls, courtyards and roads, while structures and steles not in harmony with the environment were totally removed. New buildings like pagoda for holy scriptures, museum for Shaolin boxing, as well as halls for the study of scriptures and prayer were introduced. Renovation works were completed just in time for the first world traditional boxing contest scheduled to be held in Zhengzhou City.

Shaolin martial arts gained fame during Tang Dynasty (618-907) by helping an emperor to overthrow a local feudal ruler. Nowadays, it is still praised as the orthodox Chinese Kung Fu.

Silk Road Grottoes at Risk

Prestigious research institution is warning that floods and rain are ruining the Mogao Grottoes hidden in Gobi desert. The Dunhuang Academy published a worrying report recently, suggesting that urgent preventive measures must be taken to save the grottoes.

There are altogether 735 caves at Mogao Grottoes, yet only 492 were discovered when the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987. Later on, more than 200 caves were discovered at the northern side of the mountain, but this report stated that they were much damaged as large part of the bottom layer had collapsed due to three major floods in past centuries.



It seems surprising that floods could damage grottoes in the desert, but whenever it rains, water pours into the Daquan River that runs below the grottoes. It is possible in the future that a large flood could break the banks and further damage the grottoes, which are fragile already, said the report.

The caves under threat were built in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Large quantities of precious Buddhist, historical, political and economical documents written in ancient languages were found inside.

Executive Salon 行政沙龙



The 18th to 22nd floors are executive floors. An executive salon can be found at the 18th floor. As an "imbedded restaurant", the salon claims reception room, dining hall and small business center to provide the following services:

- *Convenient check in and check out at the executive salon.
- *Free buffet breakfast.
- * "Happy Hour", 50 percent discount for all drinks.
- *Free cafe, tea and soft drink.
- *Free copy within 30 pieces of paper.
- *Free use of notebook computer and printer for one hour at the executive salon.
- *Free fax receiving.
- *Latest magazines, newspapers and leisure books.
- *Get-together, friend-meeting and little rest at the executive salon.
- *English or Chinese newspapers for each room.
- *Fresh flowers in bath room.
- *Mileage plus premier
- *Twice room cleanings for each day

For more information please dial 6512 5555 -- 87



Worldwide Reservations USA & CANADA (800)421-8795 TOLL FREE (800)273-2294 (CA ONLY) LOS ANGELES (213)629-1114 LONDON (020)7584-6666 HONG KONG (852)2529-2713 TOKYO (03)3262-7021



長富宮飯店 HOTEL NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG

26, Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100022, China.
Tel: (86-10)6512-5555
Fax: (86-10)6513-9810

Web-site: www.cfgbj.com E-mail: cfg@cfgbj.com





More Tourists Flock to Tibet

The unique highland landscapes, folklore and the holy lamaseries of Tibetan Buddhism all add appeal to Tibet, causing an increase number of tourists from home and abroad. The region received a record of 870,000 domestic and overseas tourists in the first eight months this year, almost doubled the same period last year. Tourists included 60,000 overseas tourists who came from the United States, Japan, Germany, France and Britain and 810,000 domestic tourists from across the country.

First Budget Flight Soon

Giina AirAsia has become the first budget airline to get approval to fly to China, and is planning to start a daily service in December.

According to reports, chief executive Tony Fernandes of AirAsia claimed that they will operate flights between Bangkok and Kunming. Besides, AirAsia is in talks with regulators to offer flights from its home base of Kuala Lumpur to Chinese cities, including Guangzhou, Tianjin and Beijing.

Police Guard on Airplanes

China's first 2,000 sky police have started to work on international flights from China and some sensitive domestic air routes.

The plainclothes police are primarily drawn from sky security staff and regular police. These undercover officials are there to prevent hijackings and bombings, as well as to mediate possible quarrel on flights. They will receive extensive training and are entitled to use weapons if necessary.

China's First Flight Delay Insurance Issued

Two tourism insurance clauses have just been issued to cover compensation for flight delays, the first of their kind in China. Passengers who are delayed for more than six hours because of bad weather, mechanical problems, strikes or hijacking can receive 300 to 1,800 yuan (US \$40 to 210) in compensation for every six hours delayed. However, delays caused by faults in flight schedules and services are not covered in the insurance clauses.

Air passengers have to buy these two types of insurance for protection. Also, to receive compensation, a paper from the airline verifying the delay is required.

New Lines Make Guangdong Rail Hub

build a railway linking major coastal cities in the province, heralding an ambitious programme to more than double existing rail length. Construction of the 423-km-long Raoping-Shenzhen section of the coastal railway line in eastern Guangdong will begin before 2010, but the completion of the entire project is forecasted in 2020. Guangdong's major coastal cities of Shantou, Huizhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Maoming and Zhanjiang will be linked up and benefit most from the rail project.



Guangzhou-Changsha Flight to Open

The Civil Aviation Administration of China approved the opening of another direct flight between Guangzhou and Changsha by Shenzhen Airlines starting mid September. The new daily flight is scheduled to depart from Guangzhou at 8:10 am and arrive in Changsha at 9:20 am while the return flight will depart at 10:20 am and arrive in Guangzhou at 11:25 am. Shenzhen Airlines was the second airline following Southern Airlines to have an operation base approved in the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. This newly opened flight could help relieve the flight shortage between the two provincial capitals of Guangdong and Hunan.

Hong Kong-China Strike New Aviation Agreement

Hong Kung. In a gradual opening of China's skies to more commercial aviation, Hong Kong and mainland regulators struck a deal to grant more flying rights to carriers from the two sides. Hong Kong's dominant carrier, Cathay Pacific Airways, which last year resumed limited services to Beijing after a 13-year absence from mainland, is expected to benefit from this pact.

Under the new deal, mainland-based carriers had the right to fly to foreign destinations via Hong Kong and a second Hong Kong-based airline is allowed to start serving Shanghai with passenger flights in October 2006. This will increase the total weekly passenger fights permitted between Hong Kong and China to 1,600 from the current 1,200.



Huglien-Seoul in Two Hours

Since August, TransAsia Airways have offered charter flights in both directions between the capital of South Korea, Seoul, and Hualien, the "City of Marble" on the east coast of Taiwan. The flying time of the flights is about two hours, reducing travel time considerably in comparison to flights via third cities. They are especially attractive for tourists from Korea seeking to visit Taroko Gorge near Hualien as well as other destinations in the beautiful Taiwan. Further charter flights between Hualien and other cities in Asia are planned for the future.



Asian Longest Roller Coaster on the Way

Beijing Asia's longest roller coaster has been located in Shijingshan Amusement Park and was opened to the public in late September.

The ride covers nearly 900 m and it runs up to 80 km/hr with the highest point over 30 m high. To add thrill, the passengers are to sit suspended under the carriages rather than in them. The roller coaster costs 50 million yuan, or about US \$6 million with key parts of the ride imported from overseas.

Two Railway Trunks to Be Built in Northeast China

China Two railway trunks will be built in northeast China as the current limited railway capacity is seriously insufficient. One of the railway lines, Harbin-Dalian railway which is exclusively for passengers, will connect most big cities across the three provinces in the northeast area. It will cover over 900 km with speeds up to 300 km/hr. The other line via some undeveloped areas with rich natural resources will cover nearly 1,400 km.

New Roads to Capital Airport

Beijing With the expansion of Beijing's Capital International Airport, the municipal government will build three new roads and a rail link to better connect the transportation hub with the city centre.

The new links are to join the existing road network around the airport. After its completion in 2007, the airport will be capable of receiving the expected 60 million passengers arriving annually, with more than half a million flights every year.

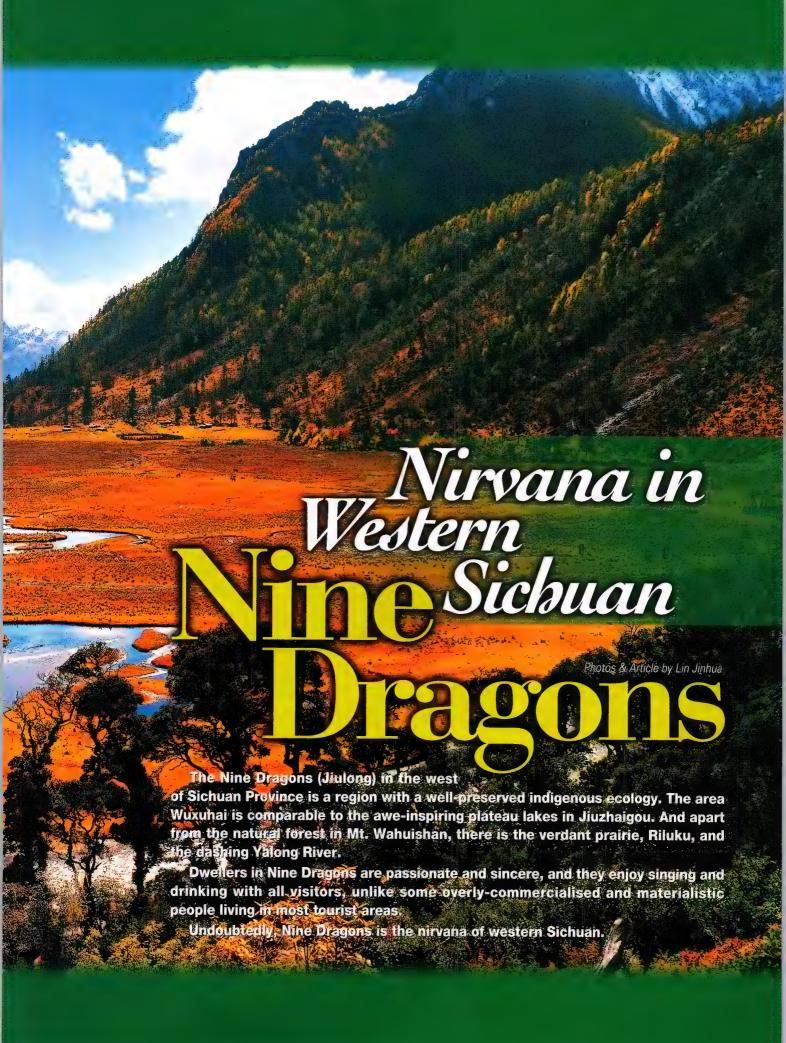
China Takes Strict Measures on Most Polluted Cities

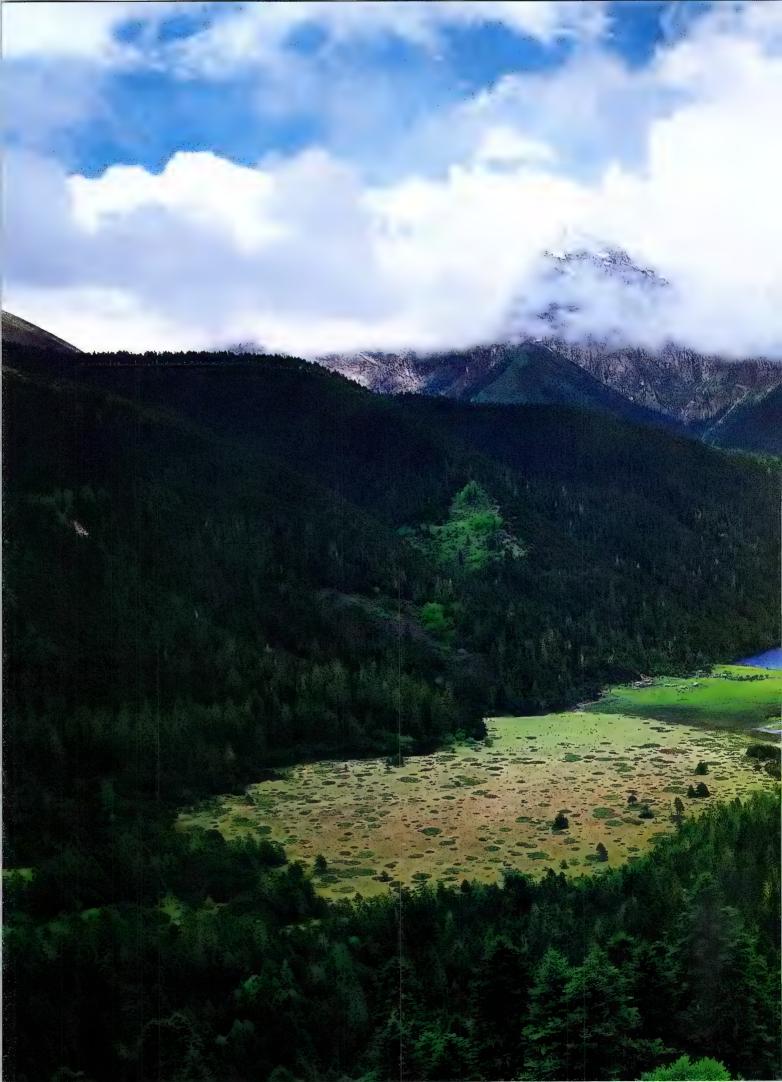
China Pollution in some cities is so severe that tourists are sometimes scared away. The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) therefore announced that construction projects that increase pollutant emission will be strictly controlled in some cities.

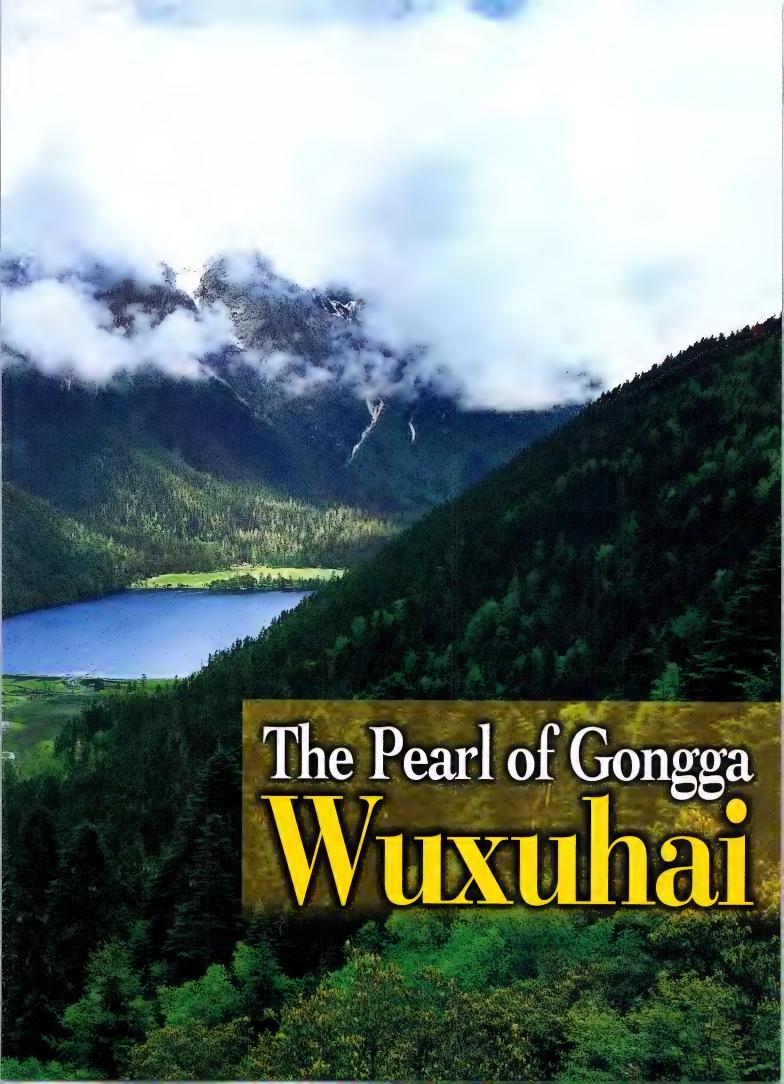
According to an annual report on city environmental management released by the SEPA recently, the ten most polluted cities in China are Linfen, Yangquan, Datong, Shizuishan, Sanmenxia, Jinchang, Shijiazhuang, Xianyang, Zhuzhou and Luoyang. Most of them are located in central and western China. SEPA requested the blacklisted cities to set standards for air quality by strictly controlling projects that will increase air pollution, to actively adjust energy structure and to popularise emission-free energy, etc.

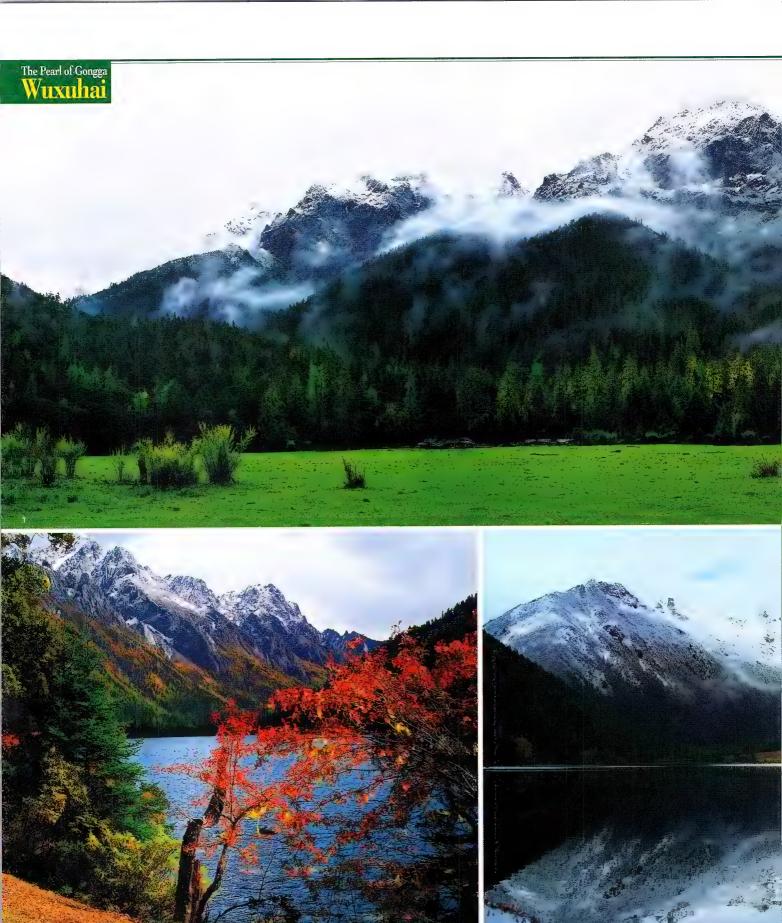




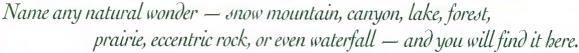












In ine Dragons, or Jiulong County, got its name from the fact that there are nine places here with the name "dragon" in them. My encounter with Nine Dragons began in year 2000. I drove a jeep and arrived at Xingdu Bridge of Kangding County one night. I realised that about 10 km from Xingdu Bridge there was a detour. This little path runs southwest to the renowned satellite launch centre in Xichang. On the way, I passed a county called Nine Dragons. Nine Dragons in Sichuan? How would it differ from the Nine Dragons in Hong Kong? Driven by curiosity, I decided to find out more.

Xingdu Bridge in November was deserted, with only a handful of wilted trees. When the car was pulling into Shade Township, the whole scenery transformed. Both sides of the sheer cliffs were woodcovered and red and purple bushes were everywhere. West of the road was the impressive-looking Tibetan brigade, built of stone. As I pulled off many times to take

pictures, I spent a total of 12 hours for the 166 km ride between Xingdu Bridge and Xiaer township of Nine Dragons County.

In Xiaer County, I met the locals Hong Feng and Deng Gaowu. Well-acquainted with the scenic regions of Nine Dragons, both became my guides. For the following three years, I went back another four times. Touring snowy mountains, prairies, forests, canyons, lakes and villages, I found Nine Dragons a place free from the contamination of civilisation — virtually a nirvana.

A Mirror Dropped by a Fairy

Like a piece of jade, Wuxuhai is in the forest-coated north of Nine Dragons. The 400-km² scenic area is covered with multi-layered hills, intertwined valleys, snow mountains, canyons, lakes, forests, prairies, eccentric rocks,

Front Page: Riluku Prairie — one of the four major scenic regions of Nine Dragons

Previous Page: Wuxuhai hidden in the mountains

- 12 Sisters Summit is like 12 delicate young ladies who pose themselves gracefully in the southern Wuxuhai.
- 2. The autumn view around the lake regions
- 3. The winter of Wuxuhai

The Pearl of Gongga Wuxuhai

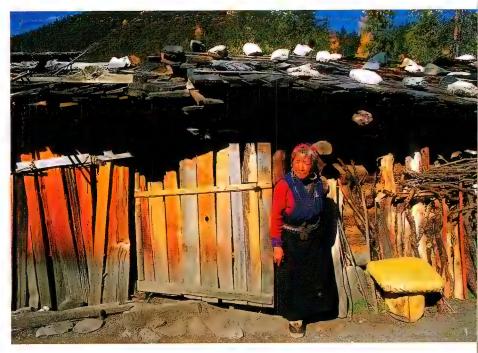
and waterfalls. Any natural wonder you can name, you will find it here.

In Tibetan, Wuxuhai means the "splendid and glistening lake". About 25 km from Xiaer Township lies a moraine lake 3,760 m above sea level, as transparent as glass. The turquoise of the lake stirs your heart and lures you to touch it. In 1985, Wuxuhai, together with Jiuzhaigou and Hailuogou, was put under national protection. Jiuzhaigou is now jam-packed with tourists; Nine Dragons, however, is still in an early stage of tourism.

Having snaked along the meandering roads in the indigenous forest for about an hour, we got a glimpse into Wuxuhai, lying amid snow-capped mountains. It is, indeed, a fractured mirror, wrapped by hefty hills. To its south is the 12 Sisters Summit, resembling 12 graceful and

slender young ladies. To the north lies the mountain of Zhaxipu. Both east and west of the lake are covered by sheer slopes, overgrown with tall woods. Walking uphill is like taking a tour in an art gallery of stunning nature.

The lake surface varies and transforms round the seasons, round the clock. In winter, the lake surface is frozen and the surrounding trees are coated with snow. In early spring, peach and plum flowers blossom. Then, the area is donned with a green overcoat decorated with azaleas a few months later. In the deep fall of October, the



Overlooking Wuxuhai from the Submit

To get a panoramic view from Wuxuhai, we hired some porters and horses before climbing up the peak. Winding up the narrow hill paths, we reached Tanggu Village 4,000 m above sea level. In no time, the snow-capped 12 Sisters Summit came into view. We could see the mile-long corridor of azaleas. Between the summit and the azaleas were lines of pine and spruce — like a verdant veil. Horses could not get through so we had to get off and

Legend has it that there are seven fairies in heaven. The youngest one happens to smash a mirror. The shattered pieces drop down to the mountainous regions of Kangba—which turn into the stunning lakes.

path between Xiaer and Wuxuhai is paved with fabulous colours of yellow, gold, red and purple.

When we visited Wuxuhai, there were still a few wooden cowsheds built by the Tibetan shepherds in the northern pastures. A handful of cattle and sheep roamed leisurely around a stunted wooden shed, totally oblivious to us. The "lake guard" Zhaxi, wearing a woolen hat and long boots, dressed up like a cowboy. His wife eyed us up and down. Having gaped at my camera, like a mice spied by a cat, she dashed inside the house and did not dare to come out again.

1. The prudent old lady, wife of the lake guard

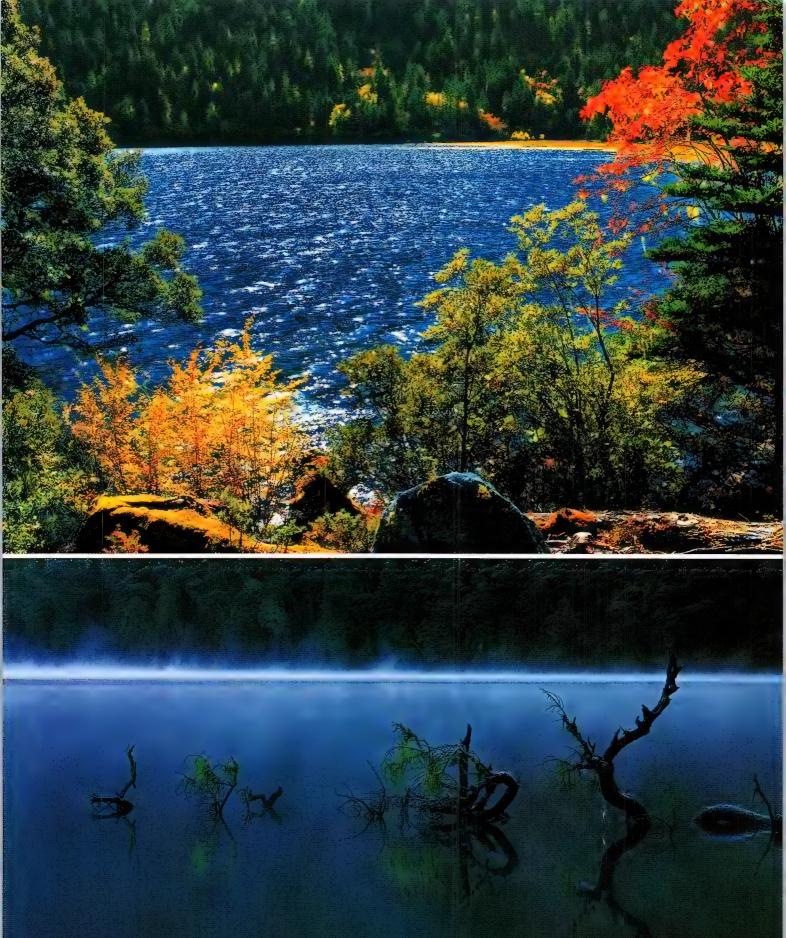
 Both Wuxuhai and Jiuzhaigau are National Natural Protected Scenic Regions.

 The lake is like a miraculous mirror — changing its face around the clock. squeeze into the thick woodland.

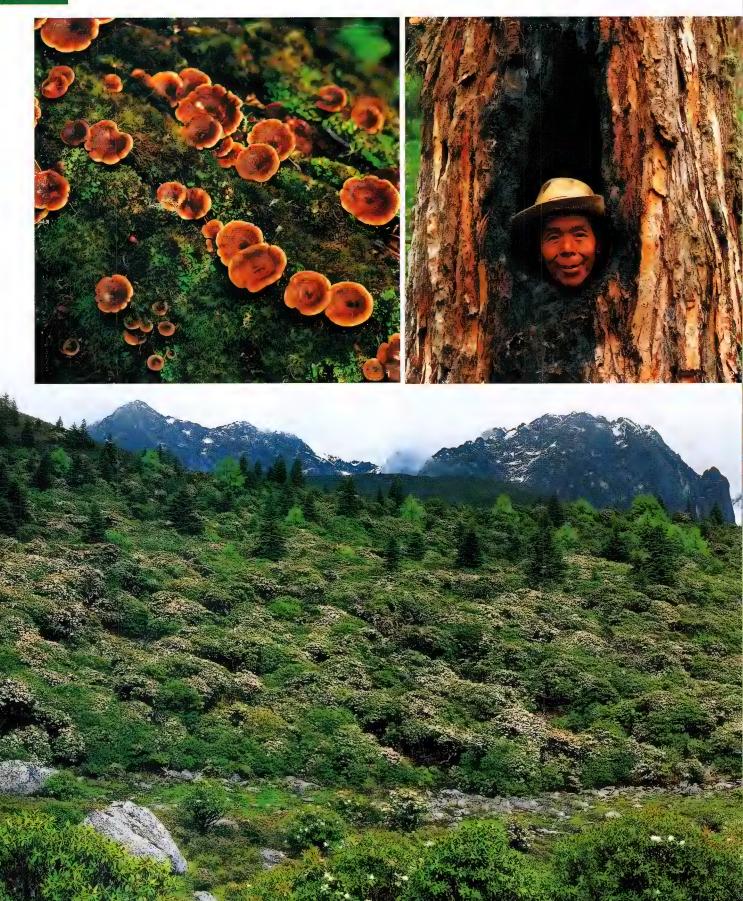
We arrived on a slope, 30 m from the peak. The slope was littered with chunks of ice and rock, some as big as a cubic metre. Packed irregularly, we could hardly stand upright. Though loaded with heavy camera equipment, our porters were relaxed and agile. The 13-year-old Dengbaciren even came to help me from time to time.

Soon we reached the 4,200 m peak. Standing on the barren rock, I glanced over the jumbled moraines, and felt dizzy. My friend, Old Guo, could not stand up straight at all. Unfortunately, his Hassel camera tumbled down 10 m till it got stuck between rocks. Lens broken and body disfigured, his 50,000-yuan camera was plunged to its death.

Overshadowed by clouds the whole day, we got a swift glimpse at the weary sun about 3 p.m. I hurried to snap the shutter only to find the clouds returned again. Shortly after I packed my cameras, the sky turned its face and spilled out



The Pearl of Gongga Wuxuhai



hail, followed by snow. We attempted to hike up from the west — where there was no path. Our experienced porter Cirenluobu, a native Tibetan who started ranching at the age of 12 and knew the place very well, was still as agile as a mountain goat in his 60s, and we had a hard time following him.

At about 4,000 m on the northwest side of the peak, Wuxuhai resembles a rectangular sapphire laid on a green pasture. To the south of the pasture was a heavy forest, where smoke from cooking fires rose from the lake guard's house. A snake-like creek bringing the melt water from the mountain top to the ocean crawled through the north of the pasture.

An Inaccessible Highway to Shangtuan Village

About four kilometres from Wuxuhai are the Upper and

- The mountains near Wuxuhai are like green treasure chests which store valuable foodstuff like Himematsutake and Snow Lingzi (Ganoderma lucidum).
- 2. The hollow thousand-year-old ancient tree
- The corridors of azalea could be found on the 4000 m-high mountains.

Lower Wuxu Villages. They are about two kilometres apart and all the villagers are Tibetan Muya minority. Not far away is a lake called Ganghaizi. The three-hectare lake is unique, sporting a veritable rainbow of colours. This is, undoubtedly, a Seven-Colour Sea.

Going a few kilometres up Ganghaizi, we reached the end of the road: the basin of Shangtuan Village. Shangtuan is the only village unreachable by road. We hired some horses and began our march along the creeks 4,000 m above sea level. The sky was dim accompanied by light drizzle, but there were quite a few people on the road. On the way were two dome-style guesthouses. It turned out

In the forest are many trees over a thousand years old.

Each tree has its unique characteristics, just like a distinct face.







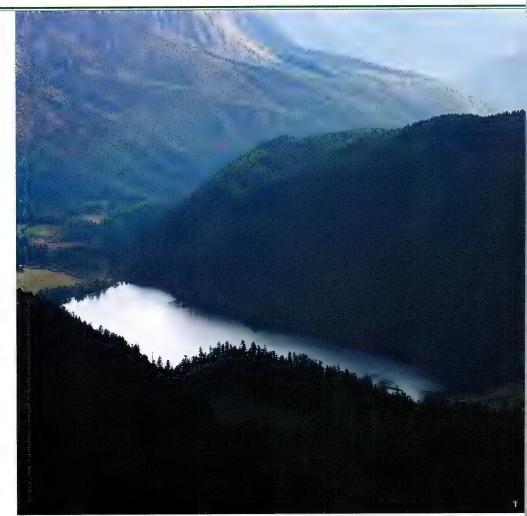


that July was the harvest season for Himematsutake (a valuable and expensive fungus), thus attracting traders everywhere. If the villagers want anything, they have to use the narrow path too. We reached Shangtuan Township about 6 p.m.

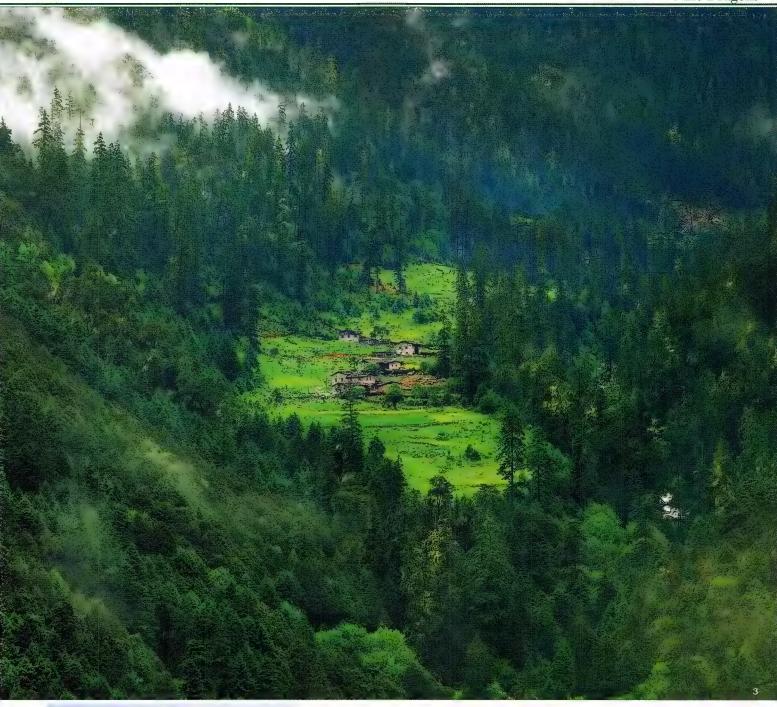
The town is 3,800 m above sea level, on a hill slope with 12 little houses surrounded by an indigenous forest. There are 13 officials in the town bureau, in charge of birth control and other affairs. Small as it is, the office is self-contained. Within a few hundred square kilometres of the township live only 586 residents.

There is no telephone, no light, let alone any television in the township bureau. All food and household items have to be carried from the county. Life for the officials there is rather dull: apart from reading, they drink and chat around the fire. Our visit became an entertainment for them. From the village major to the official in charge of hygiene — all were overjoyed. Over 10 of us were drinking in the dark wooden house. We even took turns singing. The drinking, singing and laughter carried on all night.

The next day, we rode horses up the mountain, where we saw two lakes surrounded by snowy hills. In the high summer of July, blossoming flowers covered the grassland. On our way back to Xiaer, 13-year-old Dangbaciren was joyfully singing and dancing all the way. The youngest of all our porters, he was notably smart and agile. Young as he was, he carried 20 kg of camera equipment without difficulty. Little Dangba lost his father eight years ago in a car accident. He, together with his mother and two sisters, was left behind. Due to the financial burden at home, he quitted school so his little sister





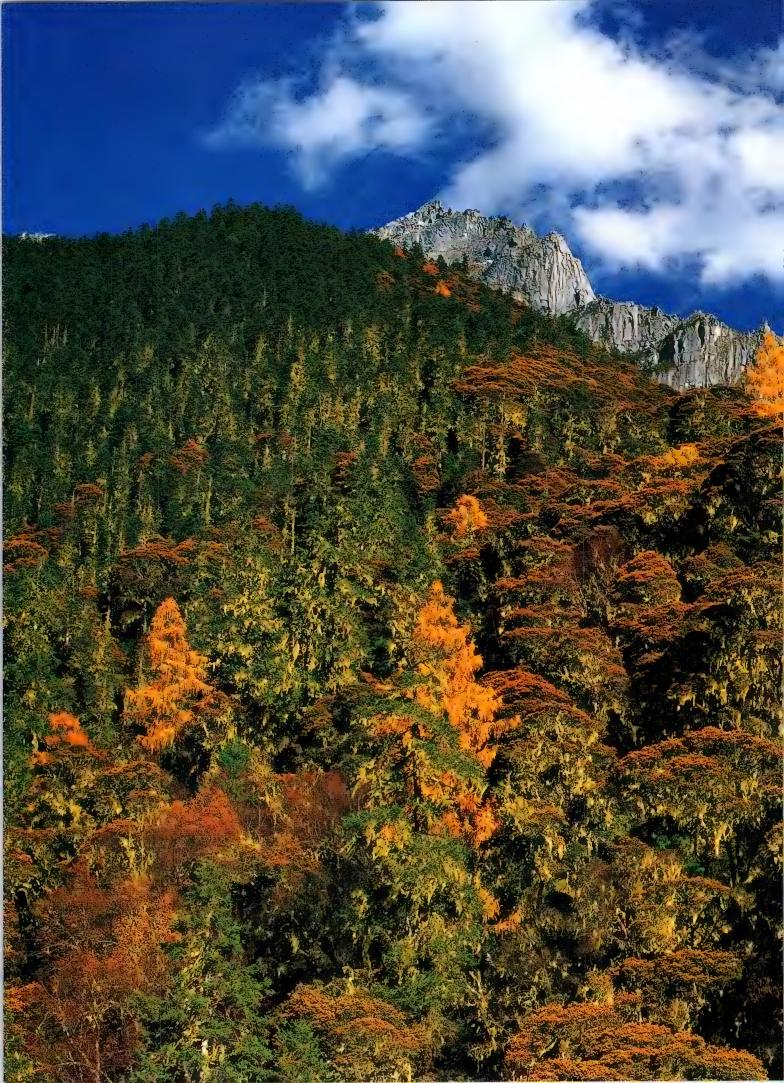


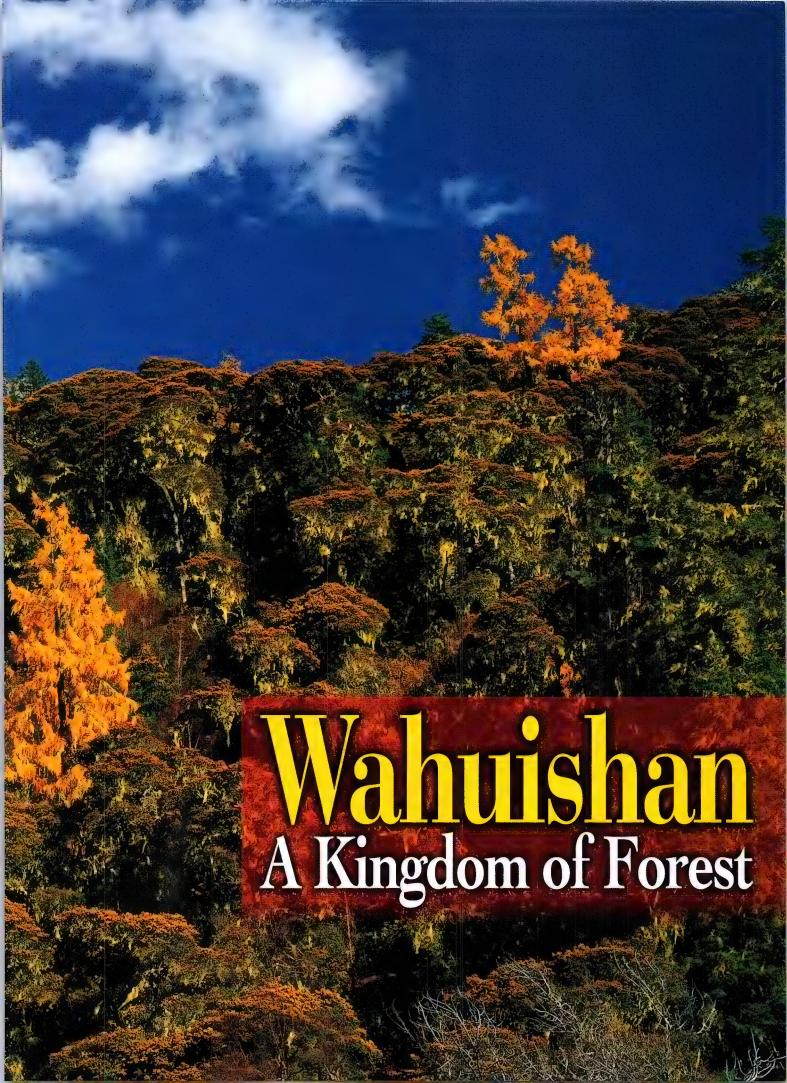


could go instead. When asked how much tuition fee he paid for a year, he said, "1,000 yuan."

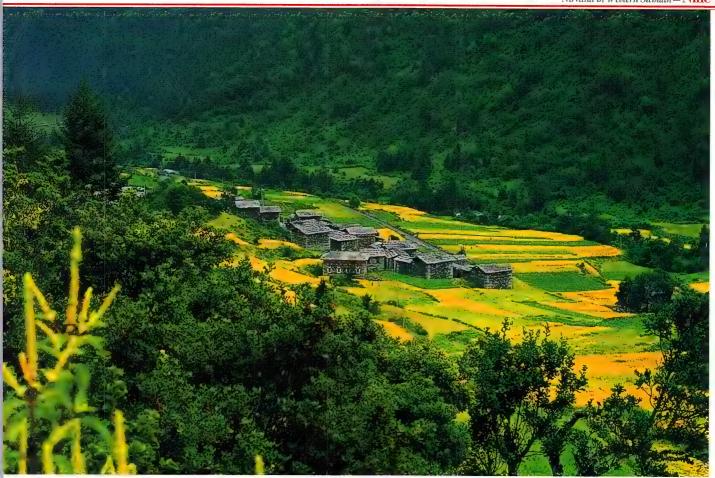
It was such a pity for an intelligent child like him to be deprived of schooling. I told Dangba that if he worked hard at school and did well, I would pay for his tuition from then on. Little Dangba was thrilled. As we reached his home at Wuxu Village, Dangba ran right to his mother and shouted, "I am going to go to school!" Tears welled up in his mother's eyes in no time and she kept thanking me. I strongly believe this child will have a great future waiting upon him.

- 1. A panoramic view on Wuxuhai from the summit in the east
- 2. The Seven-Colour Lake beside the prairie captivates one's heart.
- 3. The villages of Shangtuan Township seem to have been forgotten by the world.
- 4. Children of Dashan are extremely cute.









Dense primeval trees wound with vines baunt the lonely forest.

Hongba, Wanba and Wahuishan. With the Gongga Mountains in the background, Wahuishan nature reserve is close to Xiaer, the county seat. But of its land of 400 km², three-quarter of the area is uninhabited. Most of it is covered with dense primeval trees wound with vines that haunt the lonely forest, rarely visited by people.

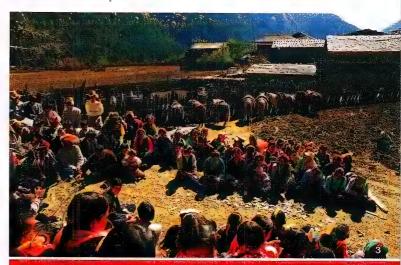
The Tibetan Muya people's Ongkor Festival

We learnt that there were a few temporary sheds put up by herdsmen, but no other accommodation. So we spent a whole day preparing to camp. Then we heard about the Ongkor Festival, which would be filled with singing, dancing and horse racing.

Tanggu Township, 17 km from Gaer, is inhabited by the Muya people, a branch of Tibetan and a special ethnic group in the Kangba area. It is still a mystery whether they are the original inhabitants or the descendants of the migrants of Western Xia Kingdom, who were forced to move south when Genghis Khan was overthrown.

During the Ongkor Festival, the men and women, old and young, sat on the ground in a circle with three Tibetan style tables in the centre loaded with fruit, wine and other offerings. Then a local living Buddha recited the scriptures to pray for a bumper harvest. Young people began the horse race. Finally, everyone ended with singing, dancing and drinking in the field till sunset.

The village head invited us to his house for delicious butter tea and hot potatoes.



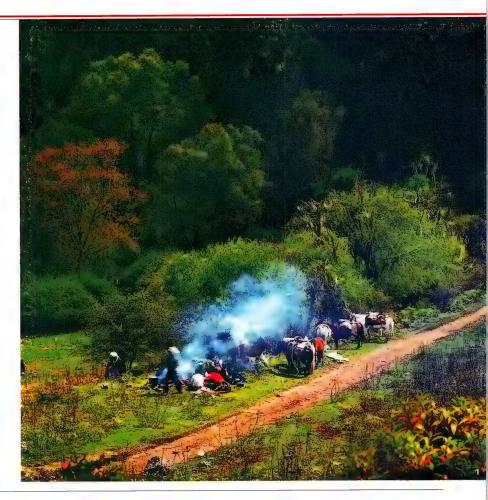
Previous Page: The thick forest with the high mountains erected around it.

- Muya people are celebrating the Ongkor Festival with various activities.
- Tanggu Town, 17 km from Jiulong county town, is inhabited by Tibetan Muya people. It is said that they are the descendents of Western Xia Kingdom.

Wahuishan A Kingdom of Forest

Hong Feng, a local friend of mine, told us that Wahuishan had some other unique scenic spots, such as Fenghuang (Phoenix) Gorge, Fenghuang Lake, Fenghuang Terrace, Salty Water Gully, Lieta Lake, Zimu River, Xueshan Shuifo (Sleeping Buddha in the Snow Mountains), and Pearl Waterfall. It would take 10 days to visit all these spots, and we did not have time.

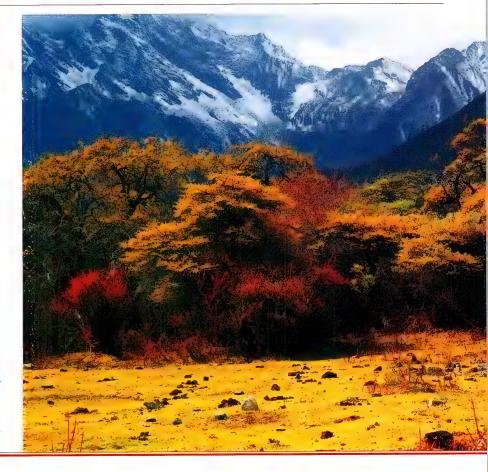
The head of the township arranged seven horses, three grooms and one week's food for us. We left Tanggu Township and headed for the mountains to the east of Heila Village. On the way we were surprised to see such thick forest still surviving. Since the groom Tashi Wanten knew that I wanted to see the primeval forest, he often led us by a roundabout route to the thick forest where the sunlight didn't penetrate. We saw tall trees, about 10 to 20 m high. The trunks were wrapped with deep brown and light grey tree moss, and green vines hung from the branches. The land here



The pasture is an open area between the primeval forest, sheltered by wind and snow.

was blanketed by overgrown golden moss and snow could be seen lower down. Our horses were often stopped by fallen trees. Anyone would be lost here without a guide.

The first day we stayed in the grasslands, and we began climbing the Wahui Mountains the second day. At 4,666 m we saw a chain of mountain peaks linked with the Gongga Mountains, the king of the mountains in Sichuan. That day we stayed only at the foot of Wahui Mountain, and the third day we went back down to the pastures. The pasture is an open area between the primeval forests sheltered by mountains all around, an ideal place for herding. The herdsmen made do with simple shacks about a metre high. A small fire pit is used for cooking and heating. Around the pit are wooden beds for 10 people. The sheds are simple and draughty, but they are the best shelter around. Sitting around the fire, we ate instant noodles and beef, listening to the jingling of horse bells outside. Then we





told stories and sang songs in turns, falling asleep as soon as we touched the sheep skin mat.

Heavy Snow in June

June is the coldest time of year, and even wearing a down coat, we still shivered with cold.

It started to snow heavier and heavier. When we woke up, we saw a silver world outside.

The grassland was thickly covered by snow and the branches drooped with snow. The sacred mountains, like two lovers, were in pure white overcoats.

- . People often cook in the open when they go out riding horses
- and climbing up mountains.

 The vibrant fall landscape

 Riding on the path with trees wrapped by green beard moss on both sides



June is the coldest time of year, and we were still shivering even with a down coat on.

I wanted to go on to Fenghuang Gorge but Hong Feng persuaded us to go back because it was dangerous walking on the snow-covered mountain path. Neither of us would give in. Just then Tashi Wanten, a groom, said that since we did not bring sunglasses with us, we had better go back or face snow blindness. I had no other choice and had to go down the mountain. But later on I learnt that snow blindness was an excuse found by Tashi Wanten to keep us safe. The local people do not have any sunglasses and they use yak tails over their eyes for protection.

Adopting a Tibetan Son

On the way back we had to pass some flooded

 Climbing up the 5,000 m-high Wahui Mountains, one can see the Gongga Mountains in the distance — king of mountains in Sichuan areas, and my horse walked into deep water. I tried to get the horse to turn back, but he ran forward madly. I tried to get off, but my feet got stuck in the stirrups and I was dragged more than 10 m. Just then Tashi Wanten managed to stop my horse. I was lucky that I escaped injury and only my clothes were torn from the scraping. When we were close to Tanggu Town, Tashi Wanten unexpectedly asked me to be godfather to his son Rinzhin Dorje. It would have been ungracious not to accept his suggestion, and since Rinzhin Dorje, 13 years old, was a fine boy, I agreed immediately. A ceremony for the adoption was held in Tashi Wanten's house. I gave Dorje a Han name, Nu Tao, and presented a hada for him with my inscription: "Conduct befitting a hero in the raging torrents and demonstrating unusual courage in the rolling waves." I really hope that he will grow up to be a brave and intelligent Kangba man.

^{2.} It is snowing in Wahui Mountains in June.





Visiting Lieta Lake's Water Monster

Rumor has it that there are monsters living in the high mountain lakes. A local doctor once told Hong Feng that there was a gigantic fish in Lieta Lake in Wahuishan. Hong wondered how a big fish could live at an elevation of more than 4,200 m. From then on, he visited Lieta Lake more than 40 times in three years, staying at least seven or eight days each time and sometimes 10 days. He saw with his own eyes a huge but unidentified living thing swimming in the lake. Once he saw it six times in eight days and took some photos. Many newspapers reported the water monster there and Hong Feng became a celebrity for a while.

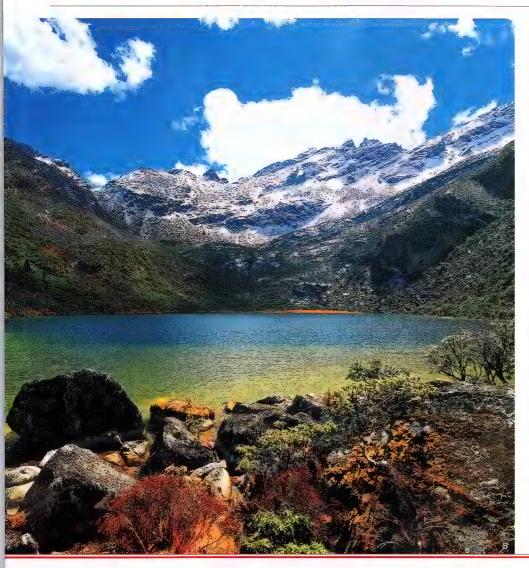
Following in Hong Feng's footsteps, I also went to Lieta Lake to see the water monster. The lake is located in Zhatu Valley, south of Wahui Mountain near the county town. We crossed the Jiulong River about 15 km north of Gaer Town

- ~4. Tree trunks of grotesque shapes can be seen everywhere in Wahuishan nature reserve.
- Lieta Lake, located in Salty Water Gully, is a lake with the highest elevation in Wahuishan area. It is said that there is a water monster in the lake.

and continued along the forest highway. The first day we climbed to Salt Water Gully at 5,000 m. The second day we turned back halfway and stayed in a discarded lumber mill. Lieta Lake was at the foot of the mountains at an elevation of 5,000 m. There was no path leading to the lake so we had to scramble up using our hands. Besides the trees, there were also rocks and soft moss all over the mountains, and even the horse would sometimes slip. After four hours' trekking, we finally saw the blue water at the foot of the mountains. But the rocks and ancient azalea around the lake made the journey difficult.

We were drenched with sweat and the wind became stronger and stronger, making us cold and uncomfortable. We had to leave after staying at the lakeside about two hours. One visit to this bleak and desolate mountainous

The rocks and soft moss all over the mountains made the area so slippery that even the sturdiest horse would skid.

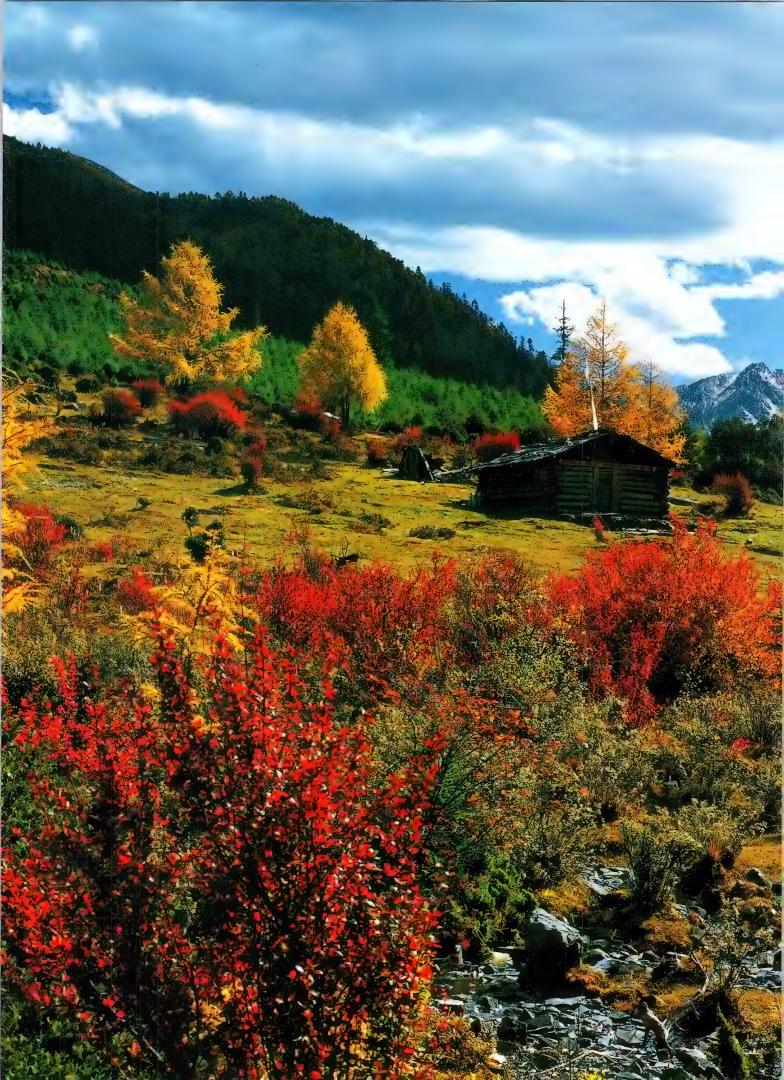


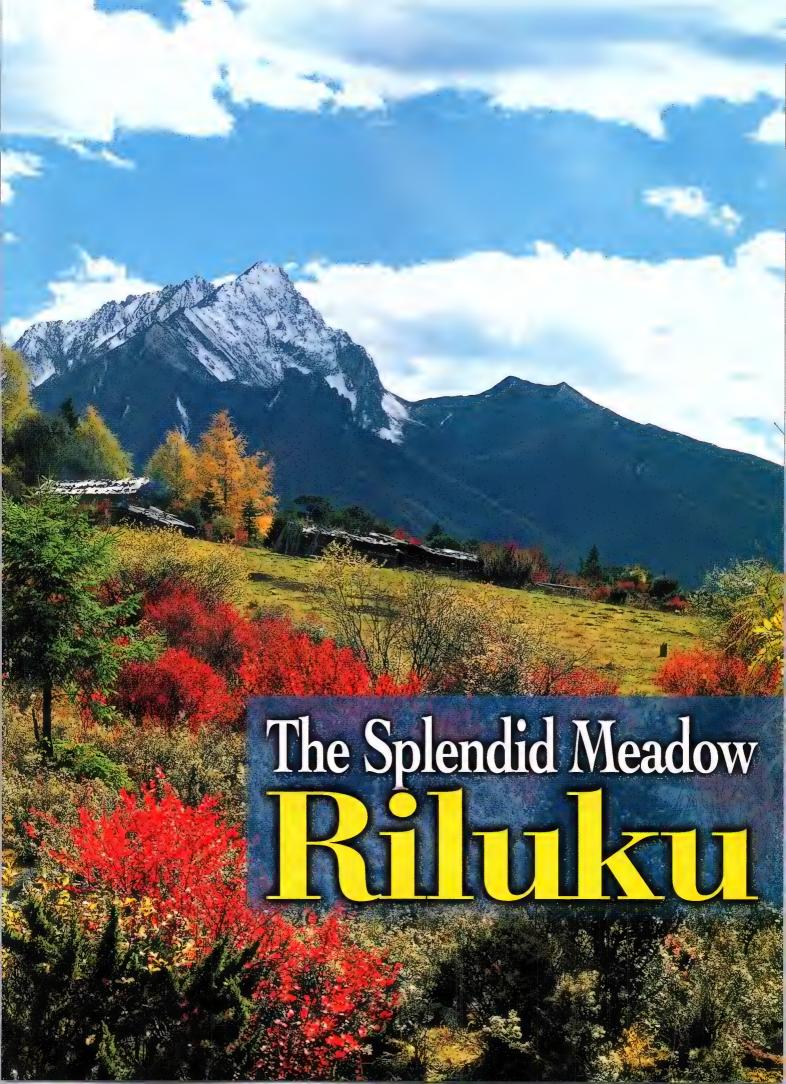
area is enough for me, and it's hard to imagine how Hong Feng could have visited this place more than 40 times.

On the way back, both riders and mounts were exhausted. The white horse that I had ridden earlier even lost his footing and rolled down a 10-m deep valley. It was lucky that the horse was stopped by a big tree and escaped death. He suffered from a cut on his belly nevertheless, about half a metre long. Although the life of the horse was saved, his old groom, Ngangring, was still distressed, and he went pale to see his beloved horse injured.

It was six in the afternoon when we got back to the lumber mill. In order to save time we decided to go back to the county town. When Tanggu Town was dimly visible in the distance at about 7:30 p.m., the horse on my right, loaded with our gear, suddenly rushed forward and knocked me down. The horse ran down the mountains madly and all the luggage and food on his back fell on the ground. Even the saddle was broken into pieces.

It turned out the old horse bolted because he was anxious to get home.







Huge colourful stones covered with fungi and lichen scatter the slopes.

Standing on Mount Jichou, 5,000 m above sea level, I saw the Yingjiu Highway winding towards Jiar, the county seat of Nine Dragons, like an earthworm. All the area surrounding the town belongs to the Riluku Scenic Area.

Lying 31 km north of the town, Riluku is a natural pasture with luxuriant grass and plentiful water. Embraced by mountains, the meadow is an oval shape. Flowers of various kinds blossom all year round, making it a fragrant

sea of flowers. A small brook zigzags through the pasture, and huge stones covered with colourful fungi and lichen scatter the slopes.

Blossoms on the Stones

I saw that each stone offered a unique world of blossoms, with those situated in dark and wet places appearing even more beautiful.

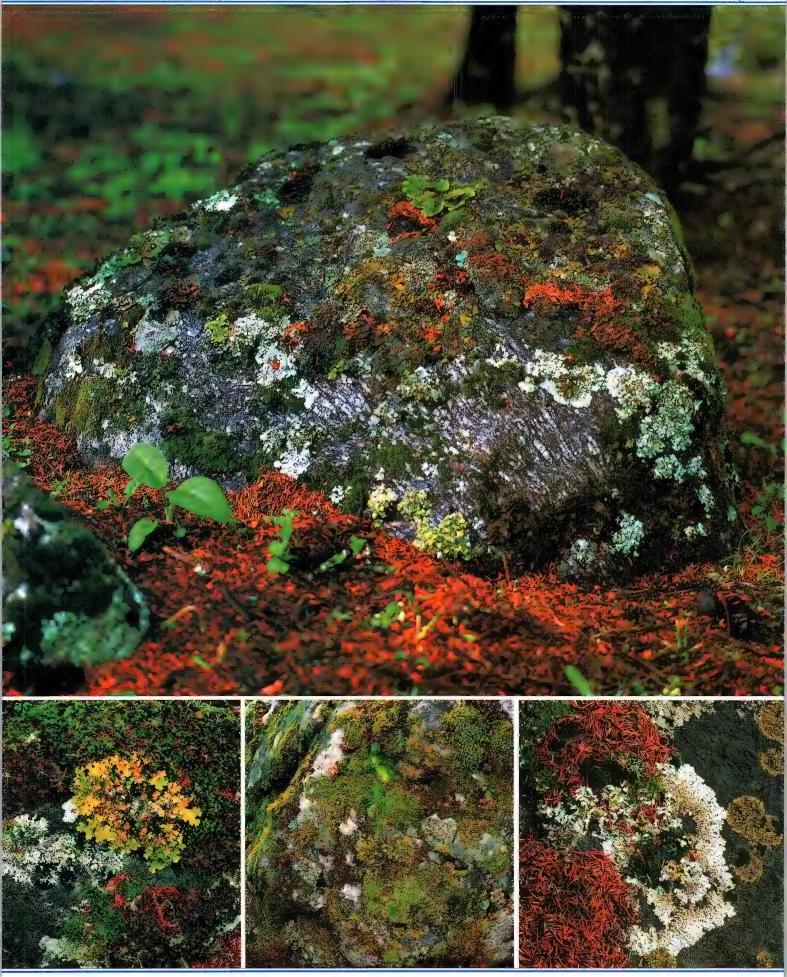






- Previous Page: The charming scene of Riluku in autumn
- 1. Yaks raised on this fertile pasture are big and have tender meat.
 2. Riluku Grassland as viewed from Mulian Peak at 4,700 m above sea level
 3. The graph of the sea of the s
- 3. The crook running through the grassland









An inn was recently developed on the slope overlooking the meadow. The owner of the hotel led us to Mulian Peak to the north. It's said that there are several highland lakes on the peak, and, with luck, you can see Mount Gongga from the top. We set off on horseback at 3 a.m., travelling an abandoned road in the forest on the edge of the pasture. When we reached 4,000 m above sea level, we saw several herdsmen's tents but had no time for a stop. Following a vague trail, we dashed towards the peak top. Alang, our guide, was walking about 30 m ahead of us.

Previous Page: Lichens growing on the stones are gargeous.

- 1. On the top of Mount Jichou, azaleas blossom wildly.
- 2. Jiri Temple at the foot of a snowy mountain
- 3. Ben believers receiving blessings from a Living Buddha

When we reached Alang's position, we had a panoramic view of the rolling mountains below, with Mount Gongga on the eastern horizon. Overwhelmed by the magnificent scene, I set up my tripod immediately. The peak of Gongga vanished in clouds and mists in a few seconds. I was lucky to have had the shot.

The ethnic groups retained their culture while blending with the others.

The Tibetans, Hans and Yis Living in Harmony

People of three different ethnic groups, Tibetan, Han and Yi, live on this beautiful grassland.

The Tibetans are said to be the original inhabitants. The Hans migrated in later. The Yis moved in from the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture 300 years ago. Each of the ethnic groups has retained their traditional culture while blending with the others.

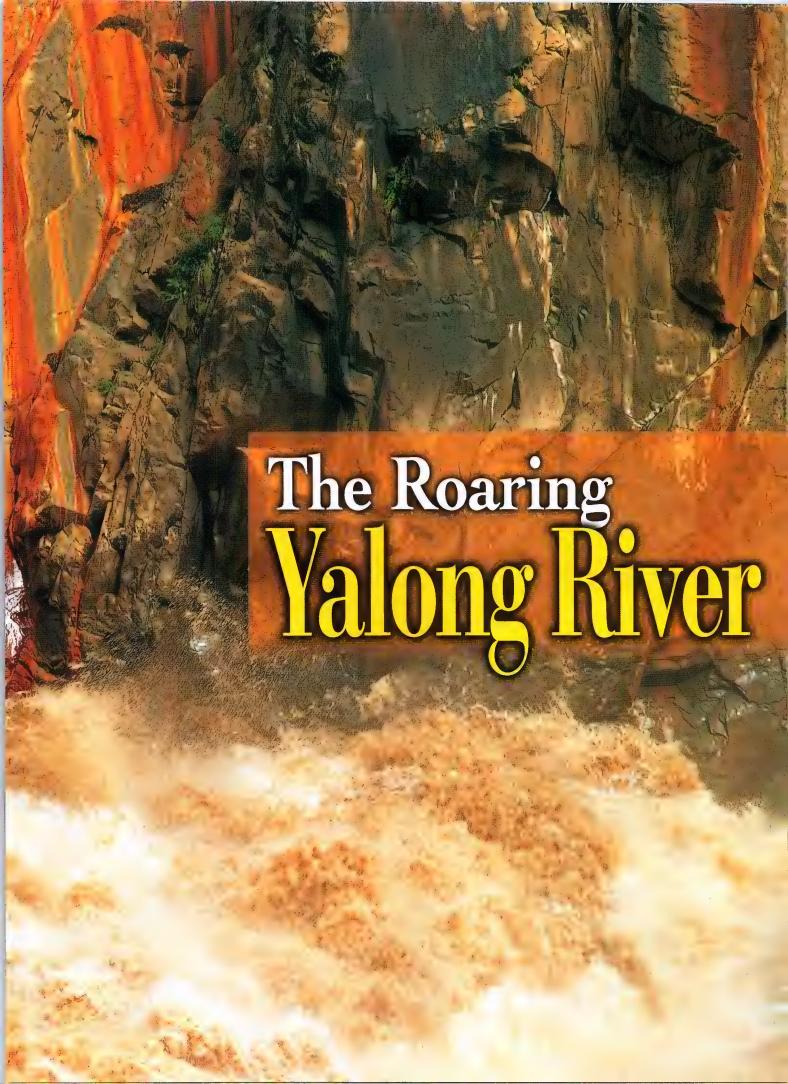
In the 9th century, Langdama killed the Tibetan King and began to ban Tibetan Buddhism. Lamas of various Buddhist sects all ran to Kangba to escape persecution.

Today, Ben, Yellow and Flowery are the three most influential religious sects in Jiulong County. The Yeren (Wild Man) Temple of Ben is situated in a cave to the southeast of Jiar Town. Jiri Temple of the Yellow Sect is in Tanggu Township. The Huaqiu Temple of the Flowery Sect is in Huaqiu, a small village near Jiar Town. Located high on the slope, only true believers can bear the hardships of climbing on such a rough trail.

















Old chain bridges and ropeways are still the main means of transport.

If a tour to Riluku is symbolised as light music, a trip to the Yalong River Valley is a symphony full of vigour.

Yalong River runs from north to south, passing through the Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, where Jiulong County is located. Known as the Grand Yalong River Valley, this 35 km section has imposing peaks on both sides. The altitude difference from the mountaintop to the valley bottom is more than 4,000 m.

Another river, Jiar, is as wild as a bolted horse. After rushing 78 km in the mountains towards the Yi Autonomous Prefecture in the south, it empties itself into the Yalong River at Wenjiaping. At the Shimenkan Hydroelectricity Station, not far from Wenjiaping, I stood on the chain bridge leading to the generator room to watch the roaring river.

It's impossible to cross the river by ferry, so old bridges and ropeways remain the main means of transport. The traditional bridge is small, and it has wooden planks laid on an iron frame. When the wind blows, the whole bridge swings. I was terrified just watching it.

Unique Han Costumes for Women

Near Wenjiaping, a big stone bridge spans the Jiar River, which leads to the Yalong River Grand Valley. The village there is lined with shops on either side, including more than 40 inns and restaurants. At an altitude of over 1,500 m, the weather here is subtropical. It has the most developed agriculture in Jiulong.

Tibetan, Han and Yi ethnic groups all live here. In a terraced field, I met an old lady carrying a bamboo basket on her back. She wore a huge black scarf on her head; her dark blue coat was embroidered with red, yellow and white patterns. At first I mistook her as an ethnic minority woman, but I then learned that her clothes were typical local clothing for married Han women.

Xifan: Descendants of Tibetans

The mountain highway, which looks like a dragon diving into the river, makes 28 turns on the slope, before reaching Zier Township on the riverside. This section of road, known as Twenty-Eight Bends, is notorious for its danger.

- III h negos comogo do work a re- mais a primitivo o higo.
- I the Tollano Kiver, which is as in a court to south a long to walker
- On the small hould the rolley, to, was trossported to the sM days.
- 4. Philippe on the transfer of the body of the body of

The Position

The residents of Zier Township belong to a Tibetan branch, called Xifan, whose dialect, costumes and lifestyle are quite different from the Muya people. According to Xifans, they are the true descendants of the Tibetans. Their ancestors moved to the east in two groups, after crossing the Hengduan Mountains to reach the Yalong River Valley. The Xifans are divided into two sub-branches, the Dafan (Major Fan) and Xiaofan (Minor Fan).

In Changhaizi (Long Lake) on the mountain at 4,000 m above sea level, many huge white conches are said to float on the water surface on sunny days. We decided to go see for ourselves.

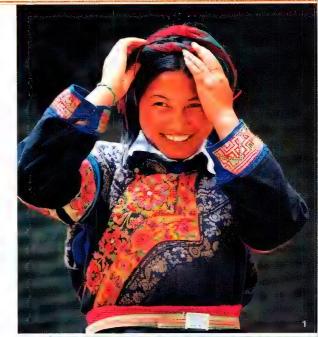
The 102-year-old Yi Lady

The scenery along the way was beautiful, with rare flowers and plants growing in the forest and flying waterfalls making musical sounds. I couldn't admire the scenery though, as I had to concentrate on staying on my horse. After climbing many peaks and hurting myself here and there, I finally arrived at Shitougou (Stone Gully) with aching limbs. We stayed with Wuka, the village head, and his family for the night.

The Yi settlement's stone houses are scattered around the gully. The warm and friendly villagers all came to the village-head's house to see us, as if we were aliens from another planet. The whole village became lively and the village-head's mother, Niduaniu, was excited too. Sitting by the door, she kept talking and gesturing. But we could not understand what she said in the Yi language. From the younger brother of the village-head, we learned that she asked if we were from Beijing and she kept commenting on how beautiful Tian'anmen was. In high spirits, the 102-year-old woman remained clearheaded. Learning that we were going to take photos of her, she asked her daughter-in-law to help her put on new Yi clothes. Since it is the custom of the Yi people to get together and drink whenever there is a happy event, the villagers all crowded in the village-head's living room that evening, sitting around the fire, drinking and singing, until daybreak.

We continued our journey the next morning. Before long, we had to start climbing a mountain. The road was a trail washed out by a spring running down the mountain. It was wet and covered with stones overgrown with moss, not suitable for horse riding. We walked gingerly. The horses, though unloaded, stopped for a breath every few metres while we climbed up on our hands and knees. Nobody talked. All you could hear were our huffing and puffing.

We reached Changhaizi Campsite at 4 p.m., 4,000 m above sea level. The campsite is composed of three small wooden shelters for herdsmen, built against several snow-capped mountains, the highest peak being 4,858 m above sea level.







I. The X-time person believe from the Care for the Therma described.

 $^{(1.000) \}times 10^{-1} \times 10^$

وره المراجع الما المراجع المراجع

^{2.} Processed beginning and a room in this valley.

All the friendly villagers rushed to see us, as if we were visitors from another planet.





The mountains were still in dark shadows. Mists rose, enveloping the landscape.

The Long Lake, at Last

We got up at 5:30 a.m. and had our photography gear ready when the first sunrays appeared on the horizon. All of a sudden, the sky was covered with rosy clouds, while the mountains were still in dark shadows. Mists rose, enveloping the landscape.

Lao Yang, my horseman, led me to a slope near the campsite to see the lake. But I could see nothing but mist. About an hour later, the breeze came, unveiling the blue lake slowly. The Long Lake is in the shape of a bottle gourd, surrounded by mountains on three sides. Wrapped in clouds and mist, the lake face appeared one moment and disappeared the next, like a beautiful woman luring her admirers. We stayed for two hours but saw no white conches.

By 3 p.m. when we had reached the peak at 4,700 m, the mountain was covered with azalea groves. We had to be very careful not to fall off the horses, and keep our feet out of the way of passing trees. Often, our backs were scratched and our coats torn. It was a thrilling experience.

The Happy Ending

The third day's journey, descending from 5,000 m to Wulaxi Township at 1,500 m above sea level, was even more difficult. The trail of less than a metre wide was steep and littered with debris. The climbing of the past days had exhausted me, so I always chose to travel on horseback whenever possible, despite the danger.

We soon entered a primeval forest, where thick trees blocked the sky. All we could see were the dim trunks veiled in mists. The spaces between trees were dark and muddy, covered with stones and moss. It was not suitable for riding. We walked carefully, often falling down.

When the altitude lowered, the temperature rose and it became increasingly humid. We were soon soaked with sweat. I did not know how many turns we made and how many pits we crossed, but I did know that my knees were aching and my toes were suffering from bleeding blisters.

After crawling for more than six hours, we finally reached Lao Yang's home in Dahuoshan Village, Pianqiao Township. I collapsed on the ground as soon as we entered his house.

We rested for two-and-a-half hours, eating lunch and





getting a massage. At 4 p.m., we continued our journey, walking slowly and painfully, like old ladies with bound feet. After passing the pepper groves, cornfields and gurgling streams, we reached Highway S215. Dashing to the roadside grass, I thanked my lucky stars for returning alive.

A TICHESSELLE

My Hopes for Nine Dragons

I have visited almost all the famous scenic spots in China and travelled to several dozen overseas countries. I know that many scenic spots have been overdeveloped,



leaving them beautiful in name only. In contrast, Nine Dragons, which is so beautiful, primeval and natural, was little known, which made me angry. I was determined to use my camera to present Jiulong to people all over the world.

I made four trips deep into Nine Dragons in four years. While photographing the place, I suffered terrible physical hardship on the journey; the more beautiful the scenes, the more I suffered.

One incident almost made me give up. One day in 2002, I was at Wuxuhai when several vehicles came up. The passengers, all well dressed in suits and leather shoes, had a barbeque party without cleaning up, leaving behind empty bottles, bones and paper scraps. I was heartbroken to see such beautiful scenic area became a dumping ground.

I hope the photos I took will remind people to take care of the unique natural environment.

Local people said that I was the first person to photograph Nine Dragons with a box-camera (my Hassel 6x6). I take this remark as an honour. I also hope that my pictures won't lead to the gradual destruction of this wonderful place because of mass tourism. If that happens, I will regret it all my life.

So being bake the sport of the Photocontent of \$2.775 mig to report over.

I know theeds muck the long mains of a consist stay.

Travel Tips

Jiulong (Nine Dragons) County is located in the Ganzi Tibetan Ethnic Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province. It covers a total area of 6776 km². The county seat, Xiaer Town, is situated at 2960 m above sea level, with a population slightly more than 50,000.

Accomodations in Jiulong

Top grade Hotel:

Longhai Grand Hotel: Standard double room; 268 yuan*; a single room 298 yuan. During low season, you could get 40% off. The hotel is about 20 m from the bus station.

Tel: (0836) 332 1222

Medium priced hotels:

Jiaoyu Binguan: Single room 188 yuan and standard double room 120 yuan. You could get 10%-30% discount at low seasons. It is close to the bus station. Tel: (0836) 332 1160

Juyuan Guesthouse: Single room, with individual washroom, costs 60 yuan. The 3-beds and 4-beds rooms costs 20 yuan per bed.

Tel: (0836) 332 3107

Linye Binguan: Single room costs 120 yuan and standard double room costs 100 yuan. The 3-beds rooms costs 50 yuan per bed.

Tel: (0836) 332 3843

Hostels:

Both Wanxing or Hualong hostels are reasonably clean, offering 24-hour hot water supply. The rate is between 20-30 yuan per person.

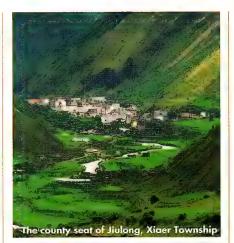
Wanxing hostel Tel: (0836) 332 3218 **Hualong hostel** Tel: (0836) 883 5991

Restaurants in Jiulong

Zuixiange and Juyuan Hotel: These two are rather up market restaurants. You could try the stewed chicken with Jiulong dried sausages, duck in pickled

Dujiangyan Sichuan Chengdu Kangding Xinduqiao Luding Gongga Mountains Neijiang Q Daocheng 17, Zigong O Muchuan Jiulong O Yibing Degen O_{Zhaojue} ugu Lake Shangri-laC Xichang Tiger-jumping Gorge **Ó**Zhaotong OLijiang Kunming **O**Huili Panzhihua 9 Shizhongshan Grottoes Yuanmu DaliO Chuxiona lunnan

Map of Jiulong (Nine Dragons)



vegetables, crispy fried spare rids. They are delicious and light dishes.

Fresh Chicken Stock Dumpling:

Situated on the Dingzi Street, this restaurant cooks dumplings in chicken stock and it is reasonably priced. The light dishes are suitable for southerners' taste.

Shiweitian:

Breakfast, snacks and stirred fries are all great. The beef hot-pot is highly recommended.

Inside the scenic region

In the scenic region of Wuxuhai, you could find food and accommodations in the management office of Wuxuhai Scenic Region. The room costs 25-30 yuan per person.

If you're driving by yourselves, you could go to the visitors' centre in Wuxu Village, and then ride horses to the scenic region. One-way horse-riding costs 40 yuan per person; and two-way 60 yuan. Visitors could also rent the approved automobiles to enter the scenic region. One-way ride for each person is 20 yuan per day; and 200 yuan if you're renting a car.

Lietahu scenic region is under construction at the moment. Tanggu Bridge that links all the way up to the tourist centre has been built, together with a 10.5-km touring highway. The basic foundation of the road as well as the prelim tourist centre are both finished — meeting the basic needs of visitors.

So far, three rides are available daily to commute between Jiulong and the Second Region; however, they do not offer a solid schedule.

There are 30-40 guesthouses in Muqilin village, which cost in general 5-20 yuan per person. Yanhualou Guesthouse is located in the west. Its modernised renovation, spacious

rooms, comfortable beds, individual bathroom and hot water supply make the guesthouse desirable. Each room costs 40 yuan per night. A three-person shared room in Lekucangjia Villa, situated on the edge of the Riluku prairie and along Number 9 highway, costs 30 yuan per person/night. Bajiaoyacangjia Villa is in the north of Xiaer Township, at the entrance of the route to Wuxuhai and next to the bridge of River Xiaer. Both villas are wooden bungalows which have unique ethnic characteristics.

In and out Jiulong

- 1. It takes only 6 hours to get from Chengdu to Kangding. The buses from Chengdu to Kangding leave each half an hour between 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are available at Xin Nan Men Bus Station in Chengdu, Wuhou Temple, and Northern train station, which cost 120 yuan per person. Around Chinese New Year, the tickets will cost about 20% more. Renting a car from Chengdu to Kangding will cost 1000 yuan. As from Kangding to Jiulong, there is one bus daily. In summer, it leaves at 6:30 a.m.; in autumn and winter, at 7 a.m. Ticket price is 72 yuan and the ride takes about 4 hours.
- 2. It takes about 7 hours to go to Jiulong from Xichang. The ride from Lugu to Jiulong takes 6 hours. Renting a car to go one-way between Xichang and Jiulong costs 800 yuan.
- Trains from Chengdu to Lugu, Xichang, and from Kunming to Xichang offer different ticket prices, depending on the type of trains as well as what class you're in.
- 4. The contact number of the Cultural and Tourist Bureau of Jiulong County is (0836) 332 3577. You could get detailed information regarding travelling in Jiulona.

Admission:

Wuxuhai Scenic region (including Riluku): 80 yuan per person

Lietahu Scenic region: 100 yuan per person. Group tickets can get 25% off.

You could also join the Jiulong (Nine Dragons) tours through the following travel agents:

Chengdu Sichuan Pearl Travel Service

Tel: (028) 8336 0566, 8331 6638, 8334 0939

Chengdu Kanghui International Travel Service Tel: (028) 8515 5798, 8515 6198, 8515 6598

Chengdu Guoxin Travel Service

Tel: (028) 8606 0667

Ganzi Youth Travel Service

Tel: (028) 8294 1527, (0836) 281 3777

A Suggested Tour for I days in Sinlong (Mine Dragons)

Day 1. Chargov & Auresting

After among Kung Ting Live Will Horse having if inner point is a real could supply the inight in could shere ties on ill Normice that

Do T Kinging V. Kang

which has under two transposition at most spens the right in the Library for mensual to the spens the right in the Library Market Marke

Day 5: Hims to Loss Line.

Right in horse than the set of th

Thomas, and for pitch or such a limited and the larger of the control of the cont

Day & Real Yorks of a Royal of

Some photo and a some part of part of wall and some more more for these more here as a part of wall and the a part of the control of the cont

Day S Wallands in Second Triggin's

To to the routhwest of thoughts see given the country settler in the case of the country settler in the case of th

victerates and the recycling Year's Revendant overhight in Section Region

Take ha both in the evening to get to Chengo; or Karaning, Mesen check Selman inhedive

Day 7: Kernding / Xeleng to Chargos

Set your lickets in Nothard, especially to trivers north fictions, and it along Coestrolise could offer you great designation in the respect in our tark to the 70 main to complete thoughts. I samplant compare Rt 120 page.

entitre is, the known upon server in

Optional tour in Jiulong:

5-day tour: Chengdu \rightarrow Ya'an \rightarrow Shimian \rightarrow Mianning \rightarrow Jiulong (Nine Dragons) \rightarrow Kangding \rightarrow Luding \rightarrow Chengdu;

6-day tour: Chengdu \rightarrow Kangding \rightarrow Jiulong \rightarrow Xichang \rightarrow Meigu \rightarrow Ebian \rightarrow Emei \rightarrow Chengdu;

7-day tour: Chengdu \rightarrow Siguniang Shan {Mt. Four Young Girls} \rightarrow Danba \rightarrow Xingduqiao \rightarrow Jiulong \rightarrow Xichang \rightarrow Luqu Lake \rightarrow Chenadu;

10-day tour: Chengdu \rightarrow Ya'an \rightarrow Hailuogou \rightarrow Kangding \rightarrow Jiulong \rightarrow Xingduqiao \rightarrow Daofu \rightarrow Litang \rightarrow Daocheng (Paddy Town) \rightarrow Derong \rightarrow Shangri-la \rightarrow Chengdu

Travelling Seasons

Photographing in Nine Dragons is not so much constrained by seasons. On June 4 (Lunar

Calendar), the "Ocean Tour Festival" brings upon swarms of people to Wuxuhai — where Han Chinese, Yi and Tibetan ethnic minorities are celebrating with dancing and singing; June 24 and 25 is the "Torch Festival" of the Yi minorities, and in their villages you could find torches being lighted up as a firing dragon; in October, the Muyazang people will be celebrating "Wang Guo Festival" in which they dance, sing, and have horse parades. During Chinese New Year, there are different ethnic activities as well, such as the temples.

The above information is provided by Julong Tourism Bureau

Wahuishan
National Ecological
Tour Region

William
National Ecological
Tour Region

Walung
(Xiaer Town)

National Ecological
Tour Region

Yalong River
National Ecological
Tour Region

Yalong River
National Ecological
Tour Region

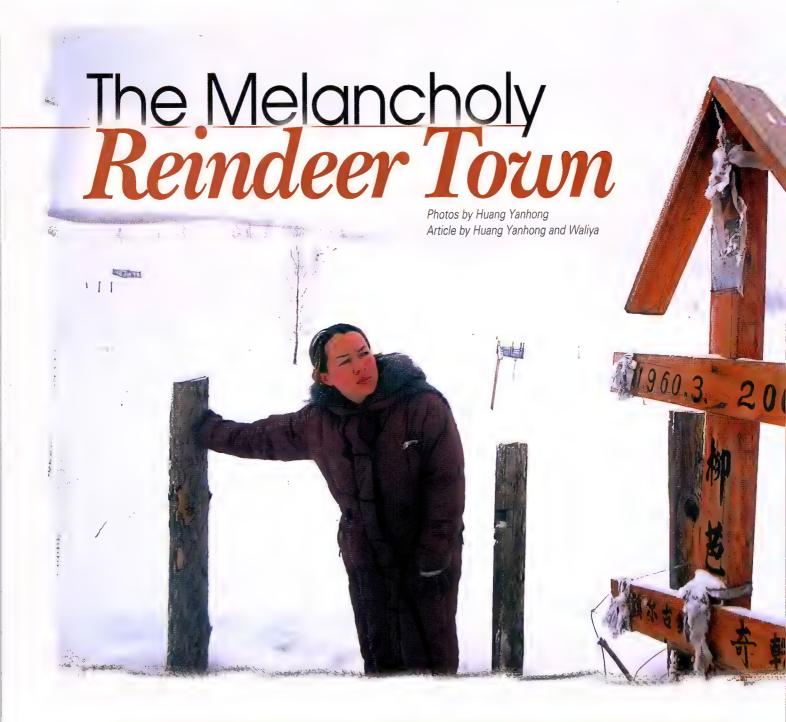
New
Ses as

Tour Map of Jiulong (Nine Dragons)

Train Time Table for Chengdu-Kunming Railway

5621	5611	N871	N855/N854	K165	K145	K117	K113		K114	K118	K146	K166	N856/N853	N872	5612	5622
	→ 21:55	20:20	18:34 18:50	14:53 15:15	16:10	18:05 18:20	13:00	Chengdu	 7:01	22:24 22:08	14:34	13:24 12:58	7:02 6:48		 6:20	
18:00 18:05	23:25 23:30	21:44 21:48	20:22 20:33			19:33 19:36	14:13 14:15	Meishan	5:45 5:41	20:34 20:32	***		5:23 5:17	4:14 4:08		10:05 10:02
18:45 18:48			21:13 21:17	17:05 17:10				Leshan				10:59 10:56	4:37 4:34			9:22 9:19
19:05 19:09	0:30 0:35	22:42 22:53	21:34 21:39	17:27 17:32	18:14 18:17	20:35 20:38	15:09 15:11	Emei	4:48 4:43	19:27 19:24	12:12 12:09	10:40 10:36	4:18 4:12	3:15 3:09		9:03 8:57
21:41 21:48	3:10 3:17	1:09 1:19	23:56 0:01	19:52 19:58	20:25 20:31	22:46 22:52	17:19 17:25	Hanyuan	2:15 2:09	16:41 16:35	9:57 9:51	8:20 8:14	1:51 1:43	0:31 0:25	1:16 1:06	6:25 6:19
2:41 2:47	8:13 8:23	6:24 6:31	5:03 5:13	0:54 1:00	1:45 1:55	3:24 3:27	21:51 21:54	Xichang	21:29 21:26	12:21 12:15	5:16 5:10	3:34 3:17	20:43 20:37	19:10 19:04	19:54 19:42	0:55 0:39
2:54 3:10	8:30 	6:38 6:50	5:20 5:33	1:07 1:21	2:02 2:13	3:34 3:42	22:01 22:09	Xichangnan	21:19 21:08	2:08 11:57	5:03 4:50	3:10 2:57	20:30 20:18	18:57 18:45	19:35 A	0:32 0:11
6:23		9:50	8:38	4:50 5:15	5:48 6:00	6:46	0:56 1:11	Panzhihua	18:22 18:10	9:02 A	1:49 1:37	0:08 23:55	17:09 •	15:51 •		20:50
				11:20 	11:55 		7:10 	Kunming	12:38		20:10	18:22 •				

Please refer to the official announcement of local train stations



A brilliant Ewenki woman painter broke her heart because her first and true love passed away. After that she gave herself over to alcoholism and lived the life of a lunatic. Finally, she died in drunkenness in a shallow river. Her death saddens many people, and it also tells the predicament of this ethnic group, who is struggling to cope with the end of their traditional lifestyle of hunting reindeer.



Huang: In 1998, I travelled to the Hulun Buir League in Inner Mongolia, and finally came to Aoluguya Township, where it inhabited by some 160 Ewenki people located in the most northern part of Genhe City.

This is the settlement of a branch of the Ewenki ethnic group called Yakute (there are two more branches: Suolun the herders and Tonggusi the farmers). The Yakute people live mostly on hunting and raising reindeer. Their ancestors originally lived northeast of Lake Baikal in Russia and in the mountain forest by the Silka River

on the upper reaches of the Heilongjiang River. They later moved further east, and one branch migrated to the middle reaches of the Heilongjiang River. In the mid 17th century, because of the tsarist Russia's invasion, this Ewenki branch moved to the Greater Xing'an Mountains. In 1957, they settled down at Qigan Township by the Ergun River from the previous scattered settlements in forests. In 1965, they moved again to Aoluguya Township where they have lived till now.

The David's Deer

I was very interested in the reindeer, also called David's

deer or Milu, with a horse-like head, a donkey-like body, deer-like antlers and cow-like hoofs. That's how their name in Chinese — "Not Resembling the Four" — came about. Although their original habitat was by Lake Baikal and on the upper reaches of the Lena River, the animal was caught and domesticated by Ewenki hunters later.

I didn't get to see the noted Ewenki painter Liuba at Aoluguya Township on that trip because she went out of town. But there was an exhibition of her paintings.

In the depth of winter in early 2004, I went to Hulun Buir again. I happened to meet Waliya at Enhe whom I had come to know on my previous trip. She used to run a restaurant, but had to close it because of the too many bad debts from her customers. She told me that

Liuba used to live in this village too, but had drowned in a river a year earlier.

Waliya: Liuba was married to someone here a few years ago. I was told that she was a talented graduate of the University of Nationalities, studying fine arts. At first I knew her only from gossip, which was mostly about her fondness for alcohol. As I was busy, and also afraid to see her drunk, I didn't make her acquaintance.

One summer morning I was washing clothes in my restaurant with the door open. Liuba came in and said to me politely, "You're so beautiful, little girl." I knew that she was flattering me because she wanted to have a drink. Sure enough, she began to beg me for a little cup of wine. Her husband had told me not to give her any drinks. "Please, Miss, my head is going to blow up, and I'll feel much better with just a little bit of wine." Her eyes were fixed on the



- 1. Waliya standing in front of Liuba's tomb
- Liuba painted reindeer in the forest of the Greater Xing'an Mountains (Archive photo).
- 3. Liuba's bitter memories can be seen in her oil painting.

wine barrel on the counter. I had no choice, for she had seen it, so I had to pour her half a cup. As if it were precious treasures, she took up the cup and drank a mouthful, "The wine is wonderful."

She told me her love story as she drank. When she just graduated from college and started working in Beijing, she heard that her first true love had committed suicide. The terrible news, like a bolt from the blue, changed her life. She became addicted to drink because she simply couldn't accept his death.

She poured herself another cup of wine as she talked, her speech more blurred. She walked out unsteadily, and soon her grieved shouts were heard from the street.

One day in August, I went to buy





some vegetables in the street and heard that Liuba was dead. I couldn't believe my ears. How could she die all of a sudden? Her husband said that Liuba took a bottle of wine stealthily when she went to wash clothes by the river. With some excuse, she sent away her daughter who was there to watch her. Then she drank herself blotto and fell into the river.

She lost her life in a river that was less than 30 cm deep. Maybe this was the best release for her.

Often Beaten Black and Blue

Huang: Waliya showed me the way to visit Liuba's family. Her husband Xiong Chenghua and daughter Yaona were all at home.

Xiong was a sincere man from Sichuan Province. He came here as a young lad but eventually turned into a grey-haired man. He talked about Liuba in a low voice, and Yaona listened silently at his side.

"One day Liuba was drunk and left her home, begging all the way to Hailar (capital city of Hulun Buir League). I saw her making trouble in the street and was badly battered, with three cuts on her ankle and temple. I arranged a lodging for her, and sent her on a bus home when she was a little better."

"Later, we got married. I thought she could be saved this way, but actually she could only be saved by love, as Liuba told me herself. It is a pity that she never loved me. I'm a plain man who looks older than I am. She was just grateful that I helped her when she needed it most." This simple and kind-hearted man spoke honestly.

After the marriage they led a hard life. Mr. Xiong had a very low income, while Liuba almost lost her ability to work, and they had to bring up their daughter. But the biggest heartache to Xiong was that Liuba became more and more addicted to alcohol. She was often in trouble in her inebriety and beaten black and blue. She even relieved herself in the street, and was too drunk to pull up her pants.

Aside from her ill-mannered drunkenness, Liuba's paintings were excellent.

In Xiong's home, I saw some of Liuba's paintings. Xiong said that Liuba painted quite a lot before she died, but some were sold gradually to meet the daily needs. After she died, some people from Beijing bought quite a few of her paintings, so he had only a dozen of them at home.

Liuba's paintings were elegantly composed and done with straightforward and uninhibited strokes. Her paintings are all about the forest, reindeer, and hunters, just like herself, who could never live without them.

Before leaving Enhe, Waliya and I went to visit Liuba's tomb.

Her tomb is rather simple, with only a few poles supporting it. A cross of the Orthodox Church is placed at the front with a photo. An artist who drew attention from international art circles sleeps here forever; her short life



was a sad story.

I remember Xiong said that every time Liuba came to the city, she missed the forest. Yet once back in the forest, she felt like a misfit.

I believed that in addition to the loss of her love, there must have been something else that had caused her bitterness. An ethnic group coming from the primitive mode of life must have been deeply perturbed when confronting the modern world. So drifting back and forth between two totally different ways of existence and cultural realms, she was at loss as to where she belonged.

A Strong Mother

We decided to go to Aoluguya Township. In recent years, because it had been moved, the township had become the focus of attention from the media. Over 1,000 reporters went to Aoluguya in the past year, visiting as often as eight times a day. The local government was tired, and so were the hunters.

We first took a train to Genhe City, then went by taxi to Sanchejian on the outskirts of the town the next day. This is

the new settlement of hunters, with altogether 62 pretty houses. The place is also called New Aoluguya, probably to show the hunters' nostalgia for their old home.

It was very easy to find the home of Liuba's mother. At its entrance, we saw a woman, quite tipsy, walking lamely from outside. Her face was obviously bruised black and blue with no front teeth left.

She was Liuba's younger sister, Liuxia. She invited us into the house when she knew that Waliya was Liuba's friend.

The house was quite new, so was the furniture. When moved, every Ewenki family got some financial support from a local institution or enterprise, which provided them with TV sets, sofas and stoves.

Liuba's mother Balajie was one of the few Ewenki people who do not drink. She spoke little, but was very hospitable to us because Waliya was Liuba's friend.

- 1. Liuba's daughter and her painting
- 2. Weijia is also an exceptional artist.

My Feeling for Liuba's Paintings

Article by Chan Yat Nin

I never saw Liuba's original paintings, but when I saw the photos of her works as I listened to Mr. Huang Yanhong's stories, I became captivated instantly.

The paintings showed the hunters' lives in the forest: simple, natural, beautiful and touching. Obviously the painter was very sensitive. She perceived the familiar forest, fields, animals and people through the eyes of a naive child. Accomplished with an unconventional imagination in a free and easy style, the paintings are very refreshing and full of the flavour of the prairie. There is also some slight tone of sadness in many of her paintings, probably coming from her family background and her inseparable tie with the forest. Paintings of this kind suggest somewhat the taste and style of Munch, an expressionist master of the last century.



Running Reindeer

Reindeer and hunters form steady themes in Liuba's painting. The pair of reindeer are running freely in the forest, looking at each other. In a free and unrestrained style, the painting exquisitely reveals the reindeer in detail. Obviously, the artistic conception and passion are what the artist was yearning for.

Childhood Memories

The painter often took her childhood memories as the subject of her art, as the friendship of the early years is always treasured. The innocent playmates in this painting look amused in their childish delight.



Forest Fairly Tale

Executed in simple colour with an absorbing romantic appeal, this painting shows the intimate relationship between the hunter and the reindeer. The woman on the reindeer is as elegant as a forest fairy, and the running reindeer seems to be dancing with easy grace, reminding us of a forest fairy tale.





She is an unfortunate yet strong woman. When her children were very small, her husband died in an accident, so she had to bring up the four children by herself. Bad luck befell her time and again. Her little son was shot, then her eldest daughter Liuba also drowned. When she heard that we wanted to visit the hunters' settlement at Mangui near Aoluguya, she agreed to let her son Weijia escort us there.

Liuba's Sister

Waliya: The railway station's waiting hall was crowded with people in this small cold town of northern China. Liuxia, her brother Weijia and their friend Suowei were with us. Huang bought five tickets to Mangui, and he also changed two hard seat tickets to hard berth tickets, asking me to take Liuxia to sleep in the berth carriage. Liuxia was still tipsy, talking rubbish and walking unsteadily. All the train attendants knew her, for she often took this train but seldom bought a ticket.

As it's very cold here, people in this area all like to drink, especially the Ewenki hunters. I believe that in addition to the cold weather, loneliness may also be a reason. To live in such a sparsely populated forest for a long period of time, everyone gets lonely. Before I came, I heard that the Ewenki people would make so much trouble after a few drinks that it could even cost them their lives. The first day we came to Genhe, an Ewenki man was frozen to death in the snow

because he lost his way after drinking, and his children became orphans. Liuba also drowned in a river after getting drunk. I didn't expect that Liuxia, just like her elder sister, was also an alcoholic. It seems that she didn't learn anything from her sister's death.

Awakening from her tipsiness, Liuxia was quite normal. She had a lot to say about moving. "I'm most concerned about the reindeer. When we moved here from the old Aoluguya, they were very miserable. Many of them wouldn't leave, so at Jinhe, they jumped out of the car to escape. Some died right away, some broke their legs and were shot by their owners. Even when hit by a shot, they still turned back for a last look at the land. What a pitiful sight. The dogs, too, would jump out of the car even though they were chained, and they were choked to death. After getting here, the animals are not used to being enclosed in pens. As they could not escape from the high pens, they just paw the ground desperately. They are not accustomed to the water here, for they are used to mineral water, but who could afford to buy mineral water for the animals? My reindeer remain in the old place. They just wouldn't move away from the forest or mountains."

"My reindeer are very happy to see me back, and they can understand me when I talk to them in Ewenki. Just like the reindeer, I'm not used to the life down the mountain either. I couldn't even turn on the gas stove and TV set."



Then she laughed heartily.

The changes in society as well as the reconstruction of towns and rural areas have much reduced the living space of both hunters and animals. Although the settled life is more comfortable, it is a survival challenge for the Ewenki people, who have lived on hunting and herding for generations and have always taken the forest and grassland as their home. Even if they adapt to the new way of life, their hunting customs will be changed. Those who cannot fit may turn to drinking and self-destruction.

At 10 p.m., our train arrived at Mangui. It was extremely cold outside: -40°C. Many small pedicabs and cars were enveloped in hot exhaust gas. Pedestrians looked like small moving chimneys with their hot breath. In such a deadly cold, we couldn't see anything clearly more than a few metres away. All seemed shrouded in a fog.

The Greater Xing'an Mountains

Huang: Early next morning, Weijia and Suowei went out to look for a car. Several drivers refused to go because of the

heavy snow and slippery road. Finally the driver of a truck with a higher chassis agreed to go for a charge of 300 yuan. He would take us there right away and pick us up in the afternoon two days later. Before getting on the truck, we bought some vegetables, beef, pork and wine and packed them in sacks in the trunk.

After driving for about 40 km, we reached the 13th crossroad, which is also called the Thirteenth Branch. The road for transporting timber ends here, and the rest of the way we had to walk. We carried all our belongings and hiked for about three kilometres along the ruts of a tractor before turning right

into the forest; our footsteps deeply printed in the snow.

Weijia and Suowei walked very fast, for they had to go back home in the forest to make a fire. Waliya and I took care of Liuxia and followed behind them. Finally, we saw a few cloth tents in the forest. Liuxia said that they used to live in zuoluozi (an umbrella-shaped tent made of birch bark and animal skins with an open top to let out smoke). Zuoluozi was not warm enough and it would produce a lot of smoke.

Entering Weijia's tent, I saw flames in the big iron stove, feeling its warmth instantly.

With Liuxia settled down, I followed Weijia to cut some ice. After walking for about one kilometre, we arrived at a frozen river. Weijia wielded an axe and a heap of ice soon appeared. Before long, we got two full baskets and a sack of ice. Weijia said that would give us enough water for two days.

After getting ice, Weijia went to visit the heighbouring tent. He came back quite drunk, lying in bed without a word. After a while, Suowei and two young men from the neighbouring tent also came, bringing an even stronger smell of alcohol and a very tense atmosphere. By then Waliya had already prepared the meal, so I called the two younger men to have dinner together.

Yet, the taller young man became very aggressive towards Weijia, who was on the defensive and stepped aside little by little. Suowei also drank a lot but was sober, trying skilfully to mediate between his two friends.

Maybe because of the presence of Waliya and me, Weijia

- Early in the morning, smoke rises from the chimneys of houses at a temperature of -40°C in Genhe City.
- 2. Ice provides us water. (by Waliya)
- Few people still live in zuoluozi.







Again, it was drinking that caused all the trouble.

After Suowei left, I chatted with Weijia again. He took up a bowl of alcohol to drink. Seeing that it was a big bowl, I knew he would be in trouble if he drank it all. I had to summon up my courage and said to him with the cup in hand, "I haven't touched alcohol for 10 years. Now I will drink it just to beg you not to have anymore today. We will be friends from now on!" Then I drank the flammable liquid in one gulp in forced chivalry.

Weijia gawked at me but said nothing, nor did he drink anymore. He fell asleep soon.

At this time, Liuxia came and

gradually became tougher in his response. I was worried that Weijia would come to blows with the tall young man just to save face, so I went out with Waliya on an excuse to take some pictures of the stars.

It was bitingly cold outside, the dark blue night sky strewn with cluster of stars over the quiet forest. The romantic atmosphere of the night was played down by the deadly low temperature and the din of drunken voices from the light in the distance.

About two hours later, the noises died down at last and we walked back slowly.

Hiding the Weapons

Weijia was in high spirits again and chatted with me about everything under the sun. Liuxia seemed to have awakened from her drunkenness too, tucking in the quilt from time to time for Waliya who just lay down.

I found suddenly that Liuxia was surprisingly sober then. She walked unsteadily to Weijia's bed, pretending to look for something. When he didn't notice, she took hold of his folding knife quickly and hid it in her clothes. Two minutes later, she did it again and took away a package of bullets. When she returned to Weijia's bed for the third time, he noticed her and asked, "What do you want?"

I found her target too this time — a broadsword hanging in a birch bark sheath. Liuxia swiftly took down the broadsword and dashed out of the tent, but returned soon. Weijia was deadly drunk and didn't ask her anything else. (The next day I found out that in addition to the three weapons, Liuxia also hid two hatchets and the bolt of his gun.)

Liuxia must have had a foreboding and hid the weapons beforehand just in case someone was hurt in a fight.

Some footsteps were heard from outside. I became nervous again. It was Suowei, who told us to turn off the light quickly and go to bed early. He would go to the other tent to cope with the two friends who were still drinking.



whispered to me that we shouldn't sleep that night because the people next tent might come and pick a fight at any time.

I learned from the locals before I came that the Ewenki people are kind-hearted and candid, but once they are in their cups they lose their reason and change completely. That may be one of the reasons why there are few men over 40 years old in the tribe.

I told Liuxia to go to bed, then I blew out the candle and sat by the bed, suffering silently from stomachache and headache caused by the gallant gulp of alcohol.

At 6 a.m. I woke up because of the cold. Weijia made a fire and began to drink again sullenly by his bed. I tried to persuade him not to drink anymore, but he wouldn't listen. I was really worried about what might happen if he kept on drinking like this.

A Foreboding in the Forest

As it was a torture to stay in fear like this, I decided to return earlier. Otherwise, I would have to bear a long sleepless night again and watch out anytime for possible fighting after the drinking. So I said to Weijia that my stomach ached the whole night after drinking and I had to

go back to see the doctor.

His face became dark, "Are you...really...sick? Is it ... because...I was drunk? I'll take you to the hospital... Just wait...and I'll get my gun and take you..."

I could tell that he was suspicious of my excuse. I felt that it was hard to explain to him in such a situation. The only way out was to leave him without saying goodbye. I would hitch a ride with a truck if I could reach the timber road.

I pretended to go to the toilet and found Waliya who was taking photos, asking her to go back along the way we came. I would catch up with her in a while. It was 9:30 a.m.

Hastily I bid goodbye to Liuxia and then ran after the tractor ruts. At last we were on the road in the forest. If everything went smoothly, we should be able to hitch a ride. We had met four to five trucks on the road the day before.

Still in the Forest at Sunset

Waliya: Huang seemed to be in a good mood, humming some Russian songs from time to time. I followed him at first, but dared not to do so because we had less and less food left. I thought I heard the sound of a truck behind us all the time, but turning around, there was

always an empty icy road.

Not a Car Came till Noon

Huang: The little food we had in the morning had long been eaten. As the sun set in the west, a terrible idea came to my mind: the timber transporting might have halted as the Spring Festival approached. I began to dread but dared not tell Waliya, pretending to be as relaxed as I could. We dared not stop even when very tired because we would start shivering with cold as soon as we did so. Nor did we dare slacken our pace for fear that we would not make it out of the forest before dark if we couldn't find a truck. Looking at our watches from time to time, we calculated the distance left if we hiked at the speed of five to six kilometres an hour.

Finally we heard the horn of a truck. The low roaring sound broke the tranquillity in the deep mountains. The sound became more and more endearing as the big truck came from the distance. We stood by the road, waving desperately. The driver lowered his speed several times, but just as it was about to stop, it sped up and tore away.

- 1. Reindeer originally living in the wild have become very tame now.
- 2. Huge tractors drive out of the forest.

The Ewenki Hunters

Because of environmental changes, most of the Ewenki hunters in Aoluguya do not live from hunting anymore. The reindeer have also suffered from the degenerated environment, and they numbered only around 800. In addition, flooding has become a serious threat to the local people in recent years. Therefore, the government of Genhe decided to move the 200 hunter households living in Aoluguya Township as a whole. On 10 August 2003, some 30 hunters of China's last hunting tribe at Aoluguya Township became the first group to move to the western suburbs of Genhe City, together with their 260 reindeer.

The removal of the tribe was very difficult, meeting with many obstacles and setbacks. Some hunters who had already moved down to the plains returned to the mountains because they could not get used to life there. A college graduate from a hunter's family said that her grandma simply wouldn't leave the forest. "After coming down from the mountain, she removed the bricks from the floor in the hope that grass would grow as luxuriantly as in the wild. She even put up a zuoluozi tent in the yard and went to collect firewood on the mountain, because she couldn't get used to the gas."

The reindeer brought down from the mountains could not adapt to their enclosed pens either, and they had to be sent back to the mountains again. This has caused much attention from the media. The pros and cons of the move were widely discussed, with strong opposing views on either side.

The pros hold that only when people's living is guaranteed can their culture be preserved and handed down from generation to generation. In the process of ecological migration, people can set up ethnic museums, folk cultural and custom villages as well as hunting grounds to preserve the Ewinki culture of the Aoluguya tribe.

The cons believe that it is better for the hunters themselves to decide when they want to come down from the mountains, rather than force them to do so. To respect an ethnic group, people must respect their customs and nature. If a civilised life is forced upon, "civilisation" becomes a burden for them.



Why didn't it stop?

Waliya said, "You look frightening with the dark gauze mask on."

I fell into a despair that I had never experienced before, feeling clearly that I was going to collapse. I walked slower and slower, every step a deadly pain, and I shivered continuously. Waliya was also in bad shape. Her shoes were not warm enough, so her feet had become numb. She had to drag her feet to move along. She wrapped herself up tightly in the overcoat, and was too tired to wipe the frost from her eyelashes and hair. Yet despite all this, she wouldn't give me my photography gear and carried it all the way.

Finally out of Danger

It was 4 p.m. when there came a roaring sound again from behind. Simultaneously we stood in the middle of the road. I took off my dark mask, held a 50-yuan note and waved. Waliya tossed her long hair out from the hat in time and raised the camera high above her head.

The truck stopped at last. We climbed in, delighted and relieved.

I asked the driver how much farther it was. He calculated and said, "Seventeen kilometres."

He was greatly surprised to hear that we had hiked from the Thirteenth Branch settlement. "You have covered over 30 km. It's too risky. If you hadn't got a ride..." "There would be two ice sculptures tomorrow morning," I said.

When the truck stopped in front of the entrance of a timber-processing factory, it was already dark. I gave the driver the 50-vuan note, but he refused to accept it.

"I didn't think of getting money when I stopped to pick you up," the driver said.

Mangui looked cold and desolate at night. There were few pedestrians in the street above, which the dim yellow light wavered in the cold wind. This northern border town was the site of the lowest temperature ever recorded in China, -43°C.

We walked into a restaurant. A heat wave with the appetising smell of mutton greeted us from behind the heavy cloth curtain. I was almost overwhelmed with excitement.

The TV was reporting the news of a large-scale drop in temperature in northern China. From the next day, the temperature in the area would be five to eight degrees lower, reaching -50°C.

I thought of Liuxia and Weijia in the forest, the alcohol that makes decent people dangerous, and about the future of this ethnic group.

Translated by Yu Ling

Tips for Traveller Aoluguya Transportation: Fly from Beijing to Jilalir Russia Hailar, then take a Mordag New Aoluguya train or bus to Genhe City. The new Aoluguya Mongolia lánzhouli / Énhe Township is Hulun Buir League located at Sanchejian within easy reach of Genhe City proper. The three-kilometre drive costs about 10 yuan* by taxi.

Travel: There are also some settlements for hunters in the forest of Genhe City, with reindeer groups and lumbering sections nearby. If you want to go to the hunters' settlement at Mangui, a local guide is necessary. First take a train to Mangui Town, then a taxi. You need a hunter guide from the settlement to lead the way after the end of the timber road in the forest. As the hunters move frequently, their settlements change too, so it is very easy to lose the way.

Accommodation: There are a few hotels such as the Guesthouse of Genhe City's Forestry Bureau with passable facilities that charge 60—100 yuan a night. There are also many small hostels at a cost of 20 yuan a night. You can ask the local publicity department to help arrange lodging. If you are putting up at the hunters' settlement, you must be fully prepared for the rather rough conditions.

Tips: The most reliable way is to contact the local publicity department and ask them to help arrange guides and cars. They can also give you sound advice.

Person to contact: Lu Qingshan. Cell phone: 139 4808 3649. The Ewinki people are warm-hearted and hospitable, but they are likely to lose control after drinking. It is extremely cold in the Greater Xing'an Mountains in winter, with temperatures dropping unbearably to over -40° C. I suffered greatly from the cold on my winter trip there, and haven't recovered from the arthritis and heel spur even to this day.

* US \$1 ~ 8 yuan



1. Reindeer return quietly to the settlement at dusk.



Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of China Tourism.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor					
Nirvana in Western Sichuan — Nine Dragons	9		Average							
The Melancholy Reindeer Town					0					
Nightlife in Changsha										
Qinchuan Village — Keeping the Legacy Alive										
Taipei Season for Chefs		a								
Others:										
	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor					
Photographs				a						
Cover										
Articles										
Travel Tips										
Art Design										
Other Opinions:										
Name: (Mr./Ms./Mrs.) Address:		Country:								
Age: Occupation:		_Number of trips	to China in the last :	5 years:						
Where (how) did you first see Chin Subscription Newsstand or bookstore Hotel Name:		_ □ Others								
Main purpose for reading China Tourism? □ Planning trips □ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. □ Business □ Tourist Trade purposes □ Others □										
What do you like most about China	a Tourism?									
Are you happy with the factual content of China Tourism? Yes No										
What are your suggestions for improvement?										

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve China Tourism magazine for you.

*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.



As I crossed the Xiangjiang Bridge. I had complicated feelings towards the turbid river water and the Orange Shoal in the river. It was, unfortunately, no longer the clean river, or the "Old Orange"

Shoal"* depicted in the poem. Through the windscreen, I saw a city enveloped by clouds of exhaust raised by vehicles. The only attractions were the occasional glimpses of young and scantily dressed girls. The sounds of music rang from street corners, and row upon row of signboards advertising beauty parlours and feet bathing shops. All these elements have created an impression of impulsiveness in today's capital of Hunan Province.

Such Is Their Daily Life

My impression of the city has been formed by many factors. An eight-hour ride on a long-distance bus had drained my energy. Bathed with sweat in the intense heat of summer, I was in a sorry state. From the crowded and hectic West Station, the city looked like a giant marketplace. Moreover, the cold drink in my stomach was making me nausea. I longed for a cold bath and wanted to give vent to my pent-up feelings. When I laid bare my thoughts to some Changsha citizens, they told me that they had to endure five hot months every year. The water in the

Changsha is an ancient capital that was once a "red" site heavily imbued with revolutionary propaganda. In the past, the city railway station here broadcasted the revolutionary anthem "The East is Red" on schedule, and images of the leader could be seen everywhere. But following the implementation of the reformation and opening-up policies, a market economy has transformed the city into a modern hive of business, with an equally rich nightlife. If veteran revolutionaries or Red Army men could see the Changsha today, they would be hard pressed to recognise it.

Xiangjiang River, which was once suitable for bathing, has been polluted and infected with blood flukes. There is no telling how low these people would sink without their cold baths, wine, women or wild parties for venting their melancholy.

Thrill Seekers

Strolling along the street, I still felt the strong power of the setting sun. The heat diffused from the street had sunk into every one of my pores.

A shout burst out, echoed by another reverberating over the street. Heads popped out of all the roadside shops. In the street, some men stripped to the waist ran wildly in slippers. One or two motorcyclists rode booming ahead at full throttle while women and children screamed with stretching necks. An elderly man solved the mystery, telling me that they were chasing after a thief.

About five minutes later the thief was caught. I saw that his face was bleeding. He was only a teenager in the grasp of two strong men. Seeing that the captive looked so sorry for himself, the local citizens felt somewhat abashed. One of them said resentfully, "Well, he's not the chief. This is no fun. Have a drink. Let's go and have a drink."

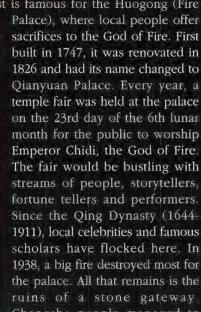
The thief sheepishly sneaked away under his captors'

very noses. Pointing at the receding back of the man a shopkeeper said, "Next time we must catch him red-handed and beat him to death!"

During my two-day visit to Changsha, I saw another thief handcuffed to a big tree. His face shrouded by the shadows of leaves, made him resemble a pitiful yet hateful clown. Meanwhile, his boss was possibly sound asleep in a shady spot in a neighbourhood park. I wondered whether it was only in Changsha that the game of cat and mouse was such a long and interesting one. Changsha residents apparently enjoy these thrills and spills as condiment to enliven their insipid lives.

Merry-Making at Jiefang Road West

Jiefang Road West is famous for the Huogong (Fire





restore the palace,

and although the current building looks strange, it is a magnet to visitors, attracting a large number of pilgrims.

Outside the gate of the palace, you can see glistening

*Orange Shoal in the Xiangjiang River, a well-known scenic spot in Changsha, Hunan Province. The poem Changsha (to the melody of Qin Yuan Chun) composed by Mao Zedong and translated by Mr. Andrew Boyd reads:

Alone I stand in the autumn cold
And watch the river northward flowing
Past the Orange Shoal,
And I see a myriad hills all tinged with red,
Tier upon tier of crimsoned woods.
On the broad stream, intensely blue,
A hundred jostling barges float;
Eagles strike at the lofty air,
Fish hover among the shallows;
A million creatures under this freezing sky are striving for freedom.
In this immensity, deeply pondering,
I ask the great earth and the boundless blue.
Who are the masters of all nature?

- Wild dancing goes on every evening in the bars at Jiefang Road West.
- Jiefang Road West was very popular in the past, attracting visitors to worship at the Fire Palace.
- 3. Xiangjiang River Bridge at dusk (by Huang Yanhong)
- 4. When the evening lights are lit, Changsha Railway Station is





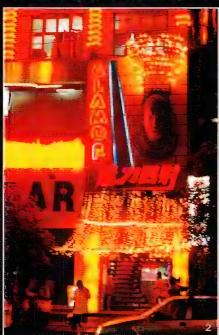
and drums from the Peking opera theatre.

Most pedestrians wandered on the street aimlessly. On the round stones along the sidewalk, some idlers sat languidly, looking right and left. The illustrious "bars" appeared ordinary in the bright sunlight, some of them even crude and disorderly. This type of place advocates "enjoying it while it lasts". However, the call produces little effect by day. One of the locals told me that if people want to enjoy the evening, they must work hard and make money in the daytime. That is why customers are sparse before dusk. Some bars are simply closed and locked. Along with the bars, I found several boutiques.

The Fire Palace is one of the famous snack plazas in Changsha. As long as you open your wallet, here is a place you can fill your stomach 24 hours a day. On a street corner of the city, there is an advertising that reads, "Cured chicken, cured ducks, cured fish, cured meat, cured... everything and anything,"

Zapped up with Happiness

In the past, Jiefang Road West was renowned for its food and now it is popular for its song and dance. According to



the local people, this region is the representative site o f Changsha's song-hall culture.

At nightfall, the place radiates its allure. As soon as the evening lights are lit, the streets are impregnated with the scent of rouge and perfume. The jittering rock music drives close eye on your wallet.

Many city taxi drivers wear a cunning grin at night. After their customers get out, they deliberately stay for a few minutes to watch them. Perhaps they think the merrymakers will return with an empty purse.

Changsha people are extravagant consumers. If they have 100 yuan in their pocket, they are ready to borrow another 100 for merry-making. Happiness is priceless, after all.

With an area of 8,000 m², Golden Time is the largest entertainment complex in Changsha, which gathers bars, restaurants, karaoke and discos. Since Changsha people are fond of spending, businessmen here are keen to stir them up with exciting nightlife.

Dance, Dance Again and Yet Again

When I stepped into the Golden Time Hall, young men and women were dancing in wanton abandonment. Amid the booming rock music, beautiful women wearing flamboyant clothes danced rowdily on the stage while viewers knocked madly against the counter with wineglasses containing dice. The noise surged over the dark cramped space like a strong sea wave. Among the crowd, waitresses swayed their hips while clapping to the beat of the music, never forgetting to turn back and toast with the customers beside them.

The dancers were mostly young and pretty girls but the male and female singers were older, in their 30s. They sang old pop songs, harking back 10 or 20 years. The music filled every corner of the hall, arousing responses from the middle-aged customers in the back row. I assumed that this is probably what the clever boss intended.

The music and smoke on the stage changed unexpectedly when the tipsy merry-makers were fully sparked up. All of a sudden, a man pulled a handful of snakes out of a bamboo container. Once on the floor, the creatures immediately slithered in all directions. The elegant moving arcs in the lamplight gave the hall the shivers. Piercing shrieks of the women sounded around the hall. A coquettish woman in bikini nimbly picked up the snakes one after another while the irritated reptiles turned their heads and nipped at her bare belly, arms or thighs. However, the plucky female twined the snakes one by one round her arms and held them high. The snakes wriggled together with her hair in the dazzling light. At that moment, I saw an evil goddess pursued by worshippers in full cry. The merrymaking reached a dizzy height.

Pureness and Innocence Behind Prosperity

The Half Past Eight hall in Changsha is very popular, but in fact, it is very small. Once inside the hall, you immediately want to escape. The reason is simple — you cannot stand the cigarette smoke and the sight of woozy faces. The bill alone will make your head spin.

The boss of Red & Black Friendship Club, on the other hand, hopes that his customers will log onto the internet, listen to music and watch sport, not just drink and dance.

Year-round ballroom goers are always in a balanced state of mind. They can handle any situation with ease. It is said, "The veil of prosperity lifted, pureness and innocence is revealed."





Changsha is rebuilding an open space by the Xiangjiang River for the public to enjoy the cool breeze blowing slowly from the surface of the river.

Around Jiefang Road West, there are also some quiet leisure places. The Shanghai-style bar Curving the Times caters to Chinese and Western fusion cuisine but it serves as a bar exclusively for drinking at night.

One evening, a young woman came to his bar. She ordered a dish of fried chilli and after finishing it, she wept with her hands covering her face. The next moment she wailed beyond herself amidst the blues. No one left the bar or disturbed her.

It is possibly that Changsha residents need a place to give vent to their depression.

Translated by Anju K.

- 1. The bar in the Red & Black Friendship Club
- 2. An eye-catching portrait at the entrance of Limitless Allure
- Vast spaces are available for chatting in both Half Past Eight and Red & Black.
- 4. The theme pictures in the bar are very innovative.



Changsha City is the provincial capital of Hunan with an area of 11,800 km² and a population of 5.82 million.
With a history of over 3.000 years, it

boasts a great number of cultural sites, relics and historical ruins. These include the ancient Lushan Temple, which is the earliest scenic site of the Han (206 BC-AD 220) and Wei (AD 220-265) as well as the largest ritual site in Hunan; the noted Kaifu Temple initiated in the Five Dynasties Period (907-960); Yuelu Academy, which is one of the four largest in the Song Dynasty (960-1279); and the Tianxin Tower.

Main Tourist Sites in Changsha

Yuelu Park and Yuelu Academy

Xiaoxiang Road North

Wangling (Imperial Mausoleums) Park No. 4, Xianjiahu Road

Changsha City Museum No. 126, Bayi Road
Hunan Provincial Museum No. 3, Dongfeng Road
Hunan No. 1 Teachers College at the foot of
Miaogao Peak, Shuyuang Road

Cultural Tour in Hunan:

Hunan No. 1 Teachers College → Tianxin Tower → Jia Yi Former Residence → Yuelu Academy → Orange Shoal → Wangling Park → Hunan Provincial Museum (with exhibition of cultural relics excavated from Mawangdui) → Changsha City Museum.

Hotels:

Huantian Xidi Hotel

Add: Southern Bus Station, Lidong Ave Tel: (86 731) 505 4111

Youyi (Friendship) Hotel

Add: No. 69, Huangxing Road Middle Tel: (86 731) 455 7148

Xinhua Hotel

Add: No. 338, Furong Road Middle Tel: (86 731) 430 8688

There are many other guesthouses and hotels in Changsha for all budgets. Prices vary from 50 to 1,000 yuan per night.

Entertainment Sites:

Jinse Nianhua (Golden Time): Jiefang Road West Meili Wuxian (Limitless Allure): Jiefang Road West

Tips for Changsha

Diaozhuo Shiguang (Curving the Times): Jiefang Road West

Red & Black Friendship Club: Jiefang Road West Half Past Eight Friendship Club: Jiefang Road West

Clubs are available in nearly every one of the hotels, including the five star hotels. The average price is over 100 yuan.

Transportation:

Getting round is convenient in Changsha. Many scenic spots can be accessed by bus. Taxi starting fare is 8 yuan and 1.6 yuan/km. After 21:00, the starting fare is 9.6 yuan.

Food and Drink:

There is a great variety of snacks in Changsha. Around Jiefang Road West, there are old snack shops such as Fire Palace Noodles Restaurant, Yangyuxing Noodles Restaurant and Huangchunhe Rice Noodles Restaurant. Various snack shops are spread all over the streets and lanes. If you like spicy food, cured meat or Guangdong cuisine, you are in luck.



KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE QINCHUAN VILLAGE

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

A nation is generally most ruthless to its ancient traditions and culture during economic takeoff. Fortunately there are exceptions. At Qinchuan Village on the west bank of Thousand-Island Lake live a group of villagers dedicated to their historic legacy and tradition. Having experienced the destructive period of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), they understand the grave loss of damaged antiques. Today, they particularly cherish the 100-year-old houses, exquisitely carved old beds, old bamboo sedan chairs, and even the official attires of the Qing Dynasty (1616—1911).





dumping garbage into the river. They also agreed not to tear town residential houses at will.

Most of the 500 households in the village have the family name of Wang, and there are more than 200 ancient buildings still standing in the village today. In most cases, these structures have a decorative gate. Toward the end of the Qing Dynasty, there were 38 wealthy families that gave the village many extravagant houses. They all have carved bricks above the lintel, sculptures of flowers and animals on the doors and windows, and above all, the most exquisite looking dragons, phoenixes and legendary animals attached to the pillars and beams.

I toured the village along with the village head. At one village home, the hosts were out but the door was not

locked. It was fastened with a small rope so that dogs and chickens could not venture into the courtyard. The village head told me that this house had some of the best wood carvings and then he untied the rope and took me in. While marvelling at the wonderful carving, I could not help being surprised by the custom of not locking one's door, which would be unthinkable in urban areas.

Another house had a fishpond in the courtyard used for raising

fishing in the river, felling of trees as well as



pet fish. The village head told me that originally there were more than a dozen houses that kept such fishponds, but now there were only six left.

Some of the nearly century-old houses are built around a courtyard with eaves channelling the rainwater into the courtyard, then through a tube inside the house. It was designed that way for the villagers believe that water is from heaven, and to receive it is to recognise the kindness of heaven.

Sleeping in a Coffin

Of the many well-preserved temples at Qinchuan Village is a clan temple called Profound Hall. Inside the

rather empty hall, the old pillars demonstrate its long history. On the second floor, however, there were more than 40 coffins. The village head told me that since they had banned earth burial, the coffins had become useless. For ages, people here did not shy away from discussing their death. Those with adequate means of income used to plan having their coffins built after they turned 30. When they had a small ailment, they would sleep for a short time in the coffin to get better.

During my stay at the village, I stayed with Mr. Wang. Like many other villagers, he raised many silkworms. The hostess said that some villagers raised as many as 10 sets of huge winnowing pans of silkworms, while their family only had two-and-a-half sets of pans. She explained that a set consisted of 20 pans each with a diameter of one metre. A set of silkworms could yield over 40 kg of silk cocoons to bring in an income of 800 to 900 yuan.

Previous Page:

- 1. A river of limpid water flowing through the village is flanked by ancient residential houses
- 2. Groupers swim freely and leisurely in the river. They wait for the feeding session when villagers have their meal.

This Page:

- 1. The roofed bridge at the entrance of the village, known as the Bridge of Virtue, provides villagers with a place to take shelter from wind and rain.
- 2. The granary has become a playground for village kids.
- 3. This temple houses several dozen coffins.
- 4. An ancient container for collecting money kept in a villager's home
- 5. A look at the buildings in Qinchuan Village







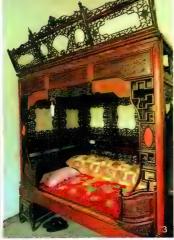
From its early life until it turns into a chrysalis, a silkworm goes through four periods of hibernation and shedding skin. When I was in Qinchuan, Mr. Wang's silkworms were in the fourth period of hibernation. Once they woke up, they would eat for a whole week before weaving the cocoons. A set of silkworms has an enormous appetite, munching away 50 kg of mulberry leaves a day.

A Bed Worth over Half a Million Yuan

Villagers at Qinchuan were very hospitable and delighted to see that I had a great interest in their houses, furniture and village roads. They voluntarily informed me of the best woodcarving in the village and told me which cowshed was once a small temple. At Mr. Wang's home, I read a copy of Selected Biographies of the Wangs, handwritten by a 95-year-old man called Wang Shijun. With a small Chinese writing brush, the old man also wrote a 13-page booklet recording stories of the village in regular script in small Chinese characters.

Mr. Wang Changji has a huge collection of antiques and his house can simply be described







as a folklore museum with a huge range of bamboo sedan chairs, woven bamboo fruit trays from the Qing Dynasty, boxes containing Qing Dynasty official hats, and a blast blower from the early years of the 20th century.

The most valuable object of his collection is the old bed. The entire village has only a dozen ancient beds

like this. At Wang Fade's house, near the village entrance, I saw a 150-kg old bed. The bed had rectangular slots for teacups, smoking pipes and a board for shoes. Built of more than 20 component parts, the bed had to be taken to pieces every time its owner moved, taking about half an hour to disassemble. According to Wang's wife, the bed was part of the dowry when Wang's mother got married. She was from

the family of a landlord known for his great wealth.

The great amount of antiques in the village has attracted many collectors in recent years. One buyer offered 600,000 yuan for Mr. Wang's bed. Most villagers, however, are very reluctant to sell their family collection of antiques, for they all cherish things handed down from ancestors.

Translated by F. Huang

- Sericulture is a sideline occupation for people in Qinchuan, and bamboo pans for keeping the silkworms can be seen just about everywhere.
- After four hibernation periods, the silkworms will eat mulberry tree leaves for a whole week.
- There are more than 20 expensive and valuable old beds in the village.
- The Selected Biographies of the Wangs copied by an old villager has been damaged by worms and insects.

A LAKE OF A THOUSAND ISLANDS



Qinchuan is an ancient village but the Thousand-Island Lake is fairly new. When the Xin'an River Reservoir was filled up with water in 1959, 20,000 ha of farmland was drowned, creating a man-made lake of 573 km², namely the Thousand-Island Lake. Located in Chun'an County west of Hangzhou City, the lake is embellished with 1,078 islands. Open to tourists are scenic nature sites such as the Meifengaugn Island, Pearl Islands. Xianshan Hill and Stone Forest, as well as sites of cultural and historic interest. including the Five-Dragon Island, Heavenly Lake and Dragon Hill Island. Many ancient towns and important historic sites including the town of Chun'an County and the ancient Temple of Hai Rui are now submerged.

The Temple of Hai Rui

In 1557, the honest and upright Qing Dynasty official Hai Rui was appointed magistrate of Chun'an County. Later, an

imperial court official in charge of historical documents surnamed Yan came to Chun'an on an inspection tour and ordered Hai Rui to provide 500 labourers to track his boat. Since it was a busy farming season at that time, County Magistrate Hai Rui did not want to burden the farmers. He decided to personally track the boat along with his subordinate officials at the risk of irritating the senior court official and getting sacked. Indeed, his action enraged the official from the imperial court who threatened to strip him of his post. Hai Rui reasoned back and the official was speechless. At the end he had to tell his followers to track the boat together with Hai Rui. To commemorate Hai Rui, the local people built a temple and dedicated it to him.

A Huge Net Hauling in 30 tn of Fish

At the Thousand-Island Lake, I watched the men catching fish with a huge net. The lake is home to 87 fish species including some of the most expensive ones. The largest haul of a single net last year brought in 350 tn of fish, setting a record high. Before casting the net, fishermen first study the size of the schools of fish according to the bubbles they create and the way they jump in the water. Then they cast a net 3,000 m long and 60 m wide. They use more than 100 boats of varying sizes to chase the fish into the net.

I saw several boats forming a large crescent. As the captain gave his order, fishermen began to bring in the net. More and more fish began to jump. In the midst of rhythmic chanting by the fishermen, thousands and thousands of fish struggle wildly, churning the water to froth.

The hauling ended in a loud cheer from the spectators. Altogether the net yielded 30 tn. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal on the boat as it drifted on the water. Of course the meal was prepared with the freshly caught fish cooked in a variety of delicious ways.



Transportation

Travel Tips

Thousand-Island Lake Town is 156 km from Hangzhou and it is the starting point for a tour of the lake. Every 40 minutes, a bus goes from Anqir Station of Hangzhou's East Bus Depot.

Qinchuan Village: Ships leave the main wharf from the county seat both in the morning and afternoon. In an hour, they arrive at the dock of Jiangjia Town. From here, travellers change to tricycles and ride 13 km to reach the village.

Accommodation

Kaiyuan Holiday Village: Located in Thousand-Island Lake Town, the five-stor hotel boasts 88 holiday villas. The rate for a standard room is 360-480 yuan*. Chun'an Hotel: Right next to the main whart at Thousand-Island Lake Town, making it easy to come and go. The rate is 80 yuan for a standard guestroom. Wenxin Island: The three-star hotel on Wenxin Island features wood cabins and water recreation, offering an ideal place for a holiday. The rate is 240 yuan for a standard guestroom.

Qinchuan Village: The village committee helps place visitors to stay in villagers' homes for about 5 to 10 yuan per person. (Telephone Wang Bomian, director of the village committee: 0571-6496-5666)

Note: During the busy season from April to October and weekends, the rate is 30% higher.

Tours

There are two passenger ships in the lake area. At 8:30 a.m., the first ship leaves for Route A. At 1:30 p.m., the second service sails off for Route B. The ticket is 30 yuan per head. (Route A: Meifeng Island, Ostrich Island, Peacock Island, Monkey Island and Three-Pool Island; Route B: the Five-Dragon Island, Wenxin Island and Magic Dragon Island)

Special Note

Ship Earl: Recently a super deluxe four-star hotel-like ship, the Earl, has been launched into service at Thousand-Island Lake. The ship features att shows and fish banquets prepared by experienced cooks. The Earl runs two services a day between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., toking tourists to see the most scenic island. The fee for a ride is 288 yuan, including entrance charge to the lake, buffet lunch, and a movie show. In the evening, the ship sets off at 8:30 p.m. and returns two hours later. This service offers a song and dance show at the rate of 68 yuan per person. The rate to spend the night on the ship is 2,480 yuan for a family suite and 588 yuan for a standard questroom.

Fish Hauling: A fishing demonstration is offered Saturday afternoons between April and November. Group tours with special requests can also make bookings three days in advance. The ticket includes a 120-yuan entrance fee for the lake, 68 yuan to see the huge net fishing process and 30 yuan for the ship ride. The ship can accommodate 500 people.

Tourism website at Thousand-Island Lake: www.1000islandlake.com

- 1. The Thousand-Island Lake
- 2. Fishermen haul in the net, bringing up 30 tn of fresh fish.



Rejuvenating Art

Paintings by Yang Zhiming Article by Chan Yat Nin



was surprised when seeing Mr. Yang Zhiming, a doyen of tourism publishing in Hong Kong, held an art exhibition in Hong Kong. I know that staging an exhibition is tiring work, especially for an aged person of 84 years coping with a serious illness.

Mr. Yang was one of the founders of China Tourism. Actually, his articles inspired me to work there. However, when I finally joined China Tourism, Mr. Yang had already retired from the company, but he kept on writing travel books and painting nonetheless. After published many books on tourism and drew sketches for a travel atlas, he had a sudden heart attack several years ago.

Mr. Yang has worked hard his whole life yet has never let age or illness slow his output. After the heart attack, he concentrated on calligraphy, and began to study painting diligently. He has made several hundred paintings in recent years.

Mr. Yang drew war sketches in the 1940s under the instruction of Mr. Shen Zhenghuang, a caricaturist, at that time. On top of that, since Mr. Yang has been a photographer for many years, it helps him to master the art of composition. As for the calligraphy, he has practised on his own for several dozen years. He has first learnt the work of renowned artists before developing his own brush style.

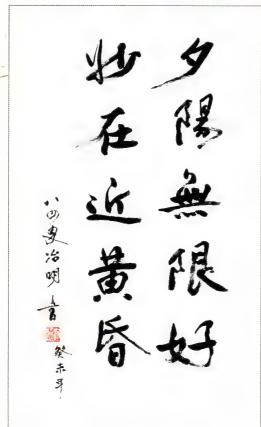
Mr. Yang finds enormous pleasure in painting and calligraphy, and he is more than willing to share his delights in the exhibition. I am fortunate to have seen and enjoyed all his works





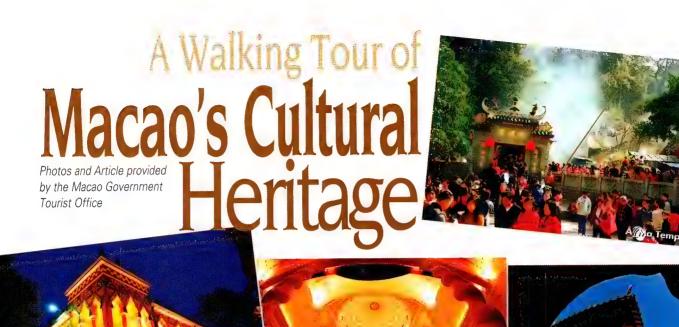
beforehand. Drawing themes from his own life and memories, most of his works are sketches and watercolour paintings with an easy and graceful style. These include landscapes and local customs he





observed through extensive travelling. His calligraphy has a style all his own with bold and fluid strokes, aptly expressing emotions, thoughts of nature and his philosophy of life.





Apart from being a hot spot for gambling, Macao is also rich in cultural heritage. Its classical western architecture, ancient temples, parks and lighthouses are made for pleasant walks.

Route 1: Macao's "Firsts"

Leal Senado Square - Holy House of Mercy - St. Dominic's Church - Cathedral - Portuguese Consulate General - St. Lazarus' Church - Lou Lim Iok Park

Special Features: The architectures along this route are mostly western with many "firsts". They reveal part of the history of Macao as well as the development of Catholicism on this peninsula.

The "firsts":

Moorish Barracks (Quartel day M

Macao's first Portuguese charity organisation: Holy House of Mercy

Macao's first western hospital: former St. Raphael's Hospital (present day Portuguese Consulate General)

Macao's first Chinese church: St. Lazarus' Church

Macao's first city planning zone: St. Lazarus' Church Quarter

Macao's first Suzhou garden architecture: Lou Lim Iok Park

The two establishments on this route, Leal Senado (Loyal Senate) municipal administration building and the Cathedral, had great influence on the Portuguese societies in those days. Even though

the Leal Senado municipal administration building is no longer the heart of Macao's political power, the Leal Senado Square still sits in the centre of the city, and it remains a favourite place for shopping,

leisure and festivals.

Na Tcha Temple (left) of St. Paul's Church (rig

Who would have guessed that the lovely St. Dominic's Church was made of wood? Its grand interior decorations can hardly convince people that it is one of Macao's oldest churches.

A sanctuary for lepers stands nearby the St. Lazarus' Church, and the vicinity of the church witnesses the earliest settlement of Chinese Catholics. Nowadays, leprosy has long gone from the peninsula, and Chinese Catholics spread across the regions. On the other hand, the area around St. Lazarus' Church and Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida has become a shopping street for the Macao residents.



Both of the ancient temples on this route, Lin Fong Temple and Zhiji Monastery, played a part in the historical events.

The Lin Fong Temple was once the conference room of the Chinese merchants and the residence of the Chinese government officials. During

Route 2: Revisiting Macao's Historical Changes

Lin Fong Temple - Mong Ha Fortress - Zhiji Monastery - Lou Lim Iok Park -Victory Park - Vasco da Gama Park - Guia Lighthouse

Special Features: This route passes through two of Macao's early major villages.

the opium trade ban, this was where the famous official Lin Zexu stayed and received the Portuguese visitors. Zhiji Monastery, in contrast, was frequented by senior monks, famous scholars and painters.

Victory Park and Vasco da Gama Park are historical places that the Portuguese would take pride in. The former was built to commemorate their victory in the battle against the Dutch in Macao, while the latter commemorates their great explorer Vasco da Gama during the great maritime discovery age.

Finally, the winding mountain path leads up to Guia Hill, the highest peak in Macao, and the Guia Lighthouse. Built in 1865, the lighthouse is still the shining beacon of the city.

Route 3: Tracing the footsteps of Macao's Portuguese

A-Ma Temple - Lilau Square - St. Lawrence's Church - St. Joseph's Seminary Church - St. Augustine's Church - Leal Senado Square - Ruins of St. Paul's Church - The Museum of Macao

Special Features: The track follows the footsteps of the Portuguese in Macao, which leads through the Catholic churches, seminaries, Portuguese settlement and ends at the landmark of Macao.

More than four centuries ago, Portuguese sailors first landed on the peninsula in front of a temple. When asked about the name of the place, the local people replied, "A-Ma-Gao (The Bay of A-Ma, also known as the Sea Goddess)." Hence, the peninsula was then named Macao.

People living in the coastal area of China are mostly fishermen who worship A-Ma, the Sea Goddess, for protection and prosperity. The A-Ma Temple witnesses the transformation of a fishing village to the present-day city over the centuries.

The route goes past four Catholic churches and two seminaries, where they nourished countless outstanding Jesuits and had a direct impact on the spread of Catholicism in China.

The College of St. Paul's Church is a western style university that helped

spread of the religion throughout the region in the past. Moreover, the plazas of Lilau and Leal Senado were where the Portuguese used to hold festivals, public talks and debates.

The last stop is the ruins of St. Paul's Church and the Fortress of Our Lady of the Mount. Unfortunately, the huge fire in January 1835 destroyed the St. Paul's Church, leaving only its facade, which has eventually become the symbol of Macao.

This long route retraces perfectly the footsteps of the Portuguese over the four centuries of Macao history.

Translated by Megina Kwan



Route 3

79

The Secret to Hazy Reflex Lens Charming Pictures Reflex Lens Photos & Article by Chan Yat N



A reflex lens can turn natural landscapes into misty watercolour pictures. Therefore, apart from a Tamron 500mm/F8 reflex lens, I later bought myself another Minolta 250mm/F5.6, which is daintier and user-friendlier than the former one. Even though my Tamron lens doubles in its focal length and has a smaller aperture, the Minolta lens immediately becomes my new love.

Though in the backlight, the bristle grass is of astonishing contrast when being placed in the background of auras. (500mm/F8 reflex lens; 1/125s and ISO 100).

he structure of a reflex lens is different from that of the commonly used refracting lens. A refracting lens reflects light from a target image through the lens directly to the surface of the image sensor CCD, yet the reflex lens takes the light to the bottom of the lens where another lens lays. Then, the light is further reflected off to the little reflex lens in the front of the lens, and finally bounces off to the image sensor. This composition allows the "robust" zoom lens to shrink in size and weight.

Two Major Advantages

To start with, a 500 mm/F8 refracting zoom lens usually weights at least two kilograms, and it is more than a feet long. A reflex zoom lens of such, in contrast, only weights 600 g and is about three to four inches.

More importantly and interestingly, the reflex lens creates a special effect on images beyond the depth of field due to its unique optics. Beams will sometimes turn into circular auras, and these exquisite auras can act as delightful decorations to the pictures.

Three Disadvantages

Having said that, a reflex lens has three major shortcomings. Firstly, its aperture cannot be adjusted, which means that there is only a fixed aperture. Photographers could only use the shutter speed to control the amount of exposure, and they could not use the aperture to maneuver the depth of field. Secondly, the images taken from the reflex lens are not as sharp as the refracting lens. Reflex lens, therefore, is often regarded as a lens solely for special effects. Thirdly, reflex lens is designed chiefly for manual camera and thus the lens is not equipped with automatic focusing or exposure functions.

Operation Tips:

I would not replace my regular lens with a reflex lens, for the reflex lens is for special effects only. But since the 250 mm reflex lens is light and it is only as big as a standard lens, I often carry it when I travel.

To add appeal and flavour to the dull background of your photo, you need to take note of the followings:

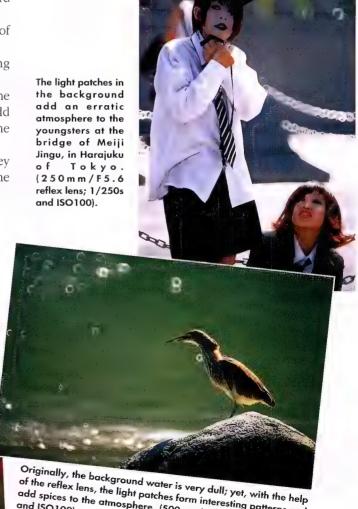
- 1) The background of the photo should have strong beams of light.
- 2) There should be enough space reserved between the focal image and the background; the circular auras could only be created when the background is way beyond the depth of field.
- 3) Since the auras should be used to embellish the key image, they should be placed properly to avoid stealing the limelight of the focus.

Shopping Tips:

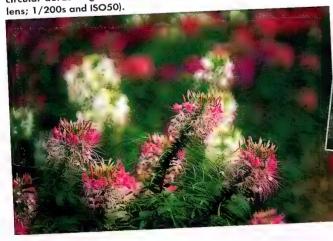
In an era when AF cameras are ruling, the production of reflex lens has more or less come to a halt. Available in second hand market only, most reflex lenses in the market are 500 mm/F8. You may find a 600 mm if you are lucky. However, both zoom lenses are not too user-friendly. The lens of 250 mm or 300 mm, on the other hand, is better but could rarely be found in the market. As far as I know, Minolta 250 mm/F5.6 is the hottest in the market, costing roughly US \$400. Since Minolta lens does not fit cameras of other brands, you may need to order an adapter ring to suit your camera. In comparison, a 500 mm lens is far cheaper. A second-hand one costs about one-third, and the adapter ring costs another one-third.

Tamron's "Fit for all" series is highly recommended. "Fit for all" means the adapter ring of the lens could easily be changed to fit for different cameras. Furthermore, many reflex lenses of different focal lengths and apertures have been produced in Russia, and they are easy to be found.

Translated by Dora Tsana



Flowers are great objects for reflex lens. Long zoom lens creates a great depth of field, placing the focus on a cluster of flowers, with other flowers placed beyond the focus. This could easily create circular auras or geometrically hazy images. (250 mm/F5.6 reflex



of the reflex lens, the light patches form interesting patterns and add spices to the atmosphere. (500mm/F8 reflex lens; 1/250s



Taipei Season For Chefs

Taipei has always been renowned for its night market delicacies. However, if Taipei aims to be on par with Paris as a Gourmet Haven, relying solely on these snacks is hardly adequate. Doing his part to promote the 3rd Annual

Taipei Season For Chefs, the Mayor of Taipei, Mr Ma Yingjiu, has gamely taken up the role of a special guest chef to introduce some of Taipei's signature restaurants to the world. Discerning gourmands are going to have a field day!

Trader's Grill - Great Cuisine Knows No Boundaries

Trader's Grill is a modern and mendy restaurant features new inventive culinary concepts of Pacific Rim cuisine, drawing inspiration from Californian, Chilean, South African, New Zealand, Chinese and Japanese cuisine. Their chefs have created exciting and revolutionary fusion dishes by integrating various cooking techniques from around the world.



Collee Quintet Coffee NT\$335 (~US\$10)

Claim to fame: Charcoal-grilled coffee beans platter

Trader's Grill believes there's more to regular coffee — the platter of coffee beans on which the Hawaiian Coffee is served is an added enticement. The aroma of coffee and coffee beans blend together delightfully, creating a marvelously full-flavoured fragrance guaranteed to make ardent coffee lovers weak at the knees. The coffee set comes with five different condiments — comprising pistachioflavoured cream, a sugar swizzle stick, kahlua liqueur, hot chocolate and a cinnamon

stick — so you'll get to create your own customized

concoction.



Pan-fried Duck's Liver with Ginger

NTS550 (~US\$17) Claim to fame: Extraordinarily rich and creamy layered texture

The texture of duck's liver may not be as exquisitely tender as foie gras, but it possesses its own distinctive taste. The lovely sourness of the balsamic dressing balances the oiliness of the duck's liver, allowing one to savour the sublime flavours.





Road Lamb Steek with Permented Bean Cord and and Red Wine Source NT\$680 (~US\$150)

Claim to fame: Innovative fusion!

The Master Chef delicately grills the tender prime lamb steak to perfection, and boldly serves it with a unique sauce made from fermented bean curd, red wine and cream. An ingenious creation.

Traders' Grill

Address: 38 Chung Hsiao West Road Section 1, Caesar Park Hotel Level 2, Taipei

Tel: (02) 2311 5150 Ext 2178

Website www.caesarpark.com.tw/caesartaipei





Red Robe's Hot and Spicy Hot Pot - This is real hot stuff!

Claim to fame: Authentic Sichuan flavour

Mention Sichuan and thoughts will inevitably turn to the hot and spicy hot pot. The owner of Red Robe, being an ardent fan of the spicy hot pot, has tasted hot pot from all over China and come to one conclusion - Sichuan has the Red Robe's Hot and Spicy Hot Pot, he traveled all the way to Chengdu to master the art of making hot pot. On mastery of the skills, he created a special soup base recipe "Red Robe's Hot and Spicy Soup" which holds all the essence of Sichuan flavour. It features three main ingredients - the Red Robe Huajiao (Fleshy and juicy Sichuan red pepper which oozes a spicy fragrance), Red Lantern (Sichuan dried chilli which is shaped like a lantern) and Pi Xian Hot Bean Sauce (Authentic Sichuan sauce) - resulting in a rich, oily red soup so fiery hot it causes one to break into a sweat. An authentic hot pot's spiciness should unfold in several stages — It gently awakes your tongue when you take the first sip and then it slowly spreads, creating a buzz of numbness that gradually fills your

that leaves you craving for more.

A good dipping sauce is key, and Red Robe offers more than 10 different types of sauces. It also offers a wide variety of fresh ingredients for cooking in the hot pots. The recommended ingredients are. Sliced beef NT\$480 (~US\$ 14), T-bone beef steak/beef tribe/beef intestines (~US\$ 8), hand-made fish balls/prawn balls/spicy pork balls NT \$180 (~US\$ 5), sticky rice cakes NT \$80 (~US\$ 2).



Address: 104 Chung Hsiao East Road Section 4 Tel: (02) 2751 8500

Website: www.dslfood.com.tw

Dian Shui Lou — Showing Affection through Dim Sum

Dian Shui Lou is famous for their dim sum, especially for their classic Xiao Long with minced lean pork. Each piece can be picked up with chopsticks without fear of the silken-smooth, translucent skin tearing. Bite into it and it will burst with juice in your

Having first-rate chefs is Dian Shui Lou's secret to success. Chef Zhang Ruiqing, with 20 years of dim sum-making experience collaborated with Japanese chefs in culinary



events and was twice invited to at the Sheraton York New



Beef NT\$240 (~US\$7) Claim to fame: Great cooling snack to relieve the summer heat The beef is succulently tender to the

bite and freshly redolent with the scent of lemon. Beautifully dressed, it is a real feast for all our senses!



Address: 30 Min Quan East Road Section 2, Zhong Shan District, Taipei

(02) 2542 6060 Website: www.dslfood.com.tw



Purple Glutinous Rite Siew Mai NT \$220 (~US\$ 7)

Claim to fame: Siew mai dessert

Most people have tasted dessert made with black glutinous rice. How about siew mai filled with black glutinous rice and fresh mushrooms, flavoured with fragrant sesame oil? Would you be game enough to give it a try?

Lawry's The Prime Rib — The Million Dollar Silver Cart



Prime Rib Dinner The California Cut NT \$990 (~US\$ 30) includes salad, mashed potatoes and Yorkshire Pudding

Claim to fame: Served piping-hot straight from the oven



The burning question at all steak houses: How to serve ovenroasted beef ribs piping-hot straight to the dining tables? Lawry's has the answer — The Angus Beef is first grilled at high heat, then placed in a NT \$1million futuristic stainless steel cart specially designed and made, and oven-baked to perfection at slow heat. Beef carving experts

who have undergone a three-month carving course, wearing their gold medallions, will then carve your cut to order from the cart right by your tableside. The cut should be fairly precise at 150g (it would not differ by more than 10g). Fresh from the oven, the beef is sizzling hot and juicy.

The original Lawry's was founded around 60 years ago at La Cienega Boulevard, in Beverly Hills, California. This fine dining restaurant chain, known for its two-metre high vaulted ceiling, can only be found in Asia in Singapore, Tokyo and Taipei.



Address: 138 Pateh Road Section 4, 12F-001 Core Pacific City, Taipei

Tel: (02) 3762 1312 Website: www.lawrys.com.tw Crisp romaine, iceberg lettuce, watercress, shredded beets, chopped eggs and croutons, tossed with Lawry's exclusive Vintage dressing in a salad bowl spun on a bed of ice. An entertaining start to a meal.

Spinning Bowl Salad

Famous Original

Hai Pa Wang — Heritage Food of the Good Old Days

Claim to fame: Traditional country-style Taiwanese banquet cuisine

Why call it "Heritage Food of the Good Old Days?" Firstly, as the banquet cuisine uses traditional cooking methods, Hai Pa Wang has specially invited an obasan (old lady) to prepare some side dishes whose



Mud cakes paired with glutinous rice is a local Taiwan dish.

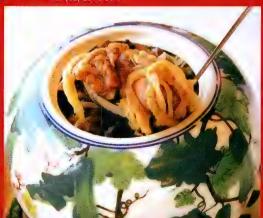


A cold dessert made with local Taiwan green mangoes. This is a refreshing sweet and sour dessert.

recipes were thought to have been long lost Secondly, most of the dishes are traditional country-style recipes that require fresh ingredients, light cooking and more soup and vegetable dishes. And lastly, the thought of a table full of festive dishes reminds us of the joyous mood when celebrating festivals with the family. The "Heritage Food of the Good Old Days" is priced at NT\$3,000 (~US\$ 90) for a table of twelve. The set menu includes twelve dishes such as Steamed Prawns in Bamboo Basket, Wine, Buddha Jumps over the Wall, Imperial Abalone, Mud Crabs with Cakes, etc.

Translated by Roy Chew

海霸王 Address: 59, Zhong Shan North Road Section 3, Taipei Tel: (02) 2596 3141



Buddha Jumps over the Wall

The Buddha Jumps over the Wall, a renowned Hokkien dish that calls for various premium quality ingredients.



Feature Story:

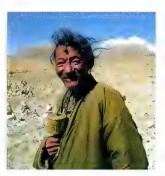
Exploring the Southern

Guizhou Province has some of China's greatest highlights with its fascinating ethnic diversity, giving the region much of its colour and charm. Our photojournalists explored deep into the southern part of the province to bring you some of the most intriguing ethnic groups they encountered.

Buyi This ethnic group possesses a rich folk literature, which includes fairy tales, fables, folk songs, proverbs and poems. They are also skilled in arts and crafts. Their exquisite batik and embroidery have become one of their best-selling handicrafts, popular both in domestic and foreign markets.

Shui The Shui language traces back to the Chinese-Tibetan language family. This ethnic group used to have an archaic writing script. Some of their words were pictographs, while others resembled Chinese characters written upside down.

Yao The Yaos have intriguing marriage customs. With antiphonal singing as a major means of courting, youngsters choose lovers by themselves and get married with the consent of the parents on both sides. However, the bridegroom's family used to have to pay a sizeable amount of silver dollars and pork as betrothal gifts to the bride's family.



Landscapes: Expressions of the Snow-capped Mountains

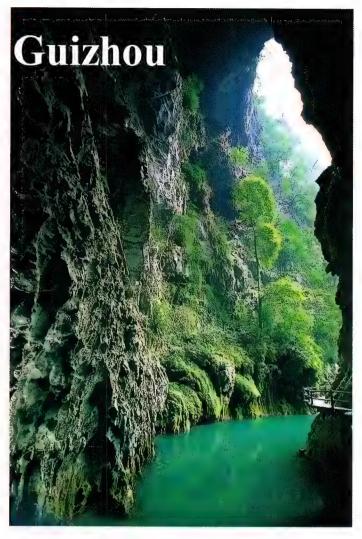
I used to think that only lunatics would risk their life to scale the icy snow-capped mountains. But after seeing the

towering year-round snowy mountains for the first time in Kangba, Tibet, I got very excited and started planning my own climbing adventure.

Discoveries:

"Gold Rush" in China: Russian Performing Artists

China's expanding and thriving economy has brought on a gold rush fever in other comparatively backward countries. Since the millennium, performance troupes from Russia have rushed to China in succession to make their living in the performing arts. To cater to the taste of their Chinese audience, the performers even took the trouble to learn certain popular Chinese songs. Each performer can earn more than 3,000 yuan every month, which is much more than what they can make back in Russia.



Discoveries:

Enigmatic Traces of the Koguryo Kingdom

Once existed in China for 700 years, the Koguryo Kingdom has been buried in the vast desert for over 1,300 years.

In July 2004, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the historical sites and relics of the ancient Koguryo

kii cul bri hiss wo

Kingdom as a world cultural heritage site, bringing the Koguryo history and culture to the world's attention again.





BITS AND PIECES ABOUT NINE DRAGONS

Nine Dragons (Jiulong) is situated in the south-west corner of Sichuan Province, amidst high mountains and deep valleys. Although it is very close to tourist's hot spots like Daochen and Lugu Lake, she is lucky enough to remain uncontaminated. There is no direct transportation from Chengdu to Nine Dragons, so travellers cannot avoid visiting some other famous attractions nearby before heading for the place.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Kangding

Most Chinese come to know Kangding because of the famous Sichuanese folksong called "The love song of Kangding". The song, which depicts the romantic feelings a young Kangding man had for a beautiful village girl, has such an enchanting melody that it is still taught in all primary schools of China today.

In the southern edge of Kangding is Paoma Mountain. The mountain is the site of the annual "Walking around the Mountain Festival" (Zhuanshanjie), which takes place on the 18th day of



the fourth lunar month. This is reputedly the best time to visit Kangding, for Tibetans from all over the region would set up tents on the hillside to take part in trading, wrestling matches, tug-of-war contests, folk dancing and horse racing.

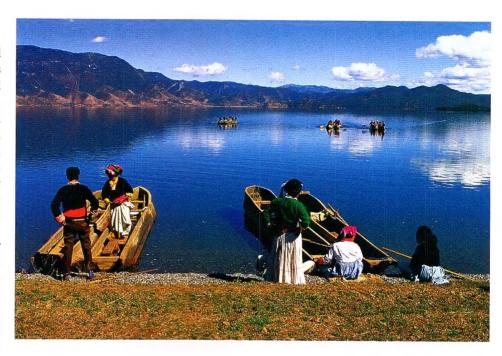
Besides hosting this festival, Paoma Mountain offers visitors a spectacular view of the city and the surrounding mountain ranges. On a clear day, it is possible to see Mount Gongga, Sichuan's highest peak (7556 m), from Paoma's summit.



Lugu lake

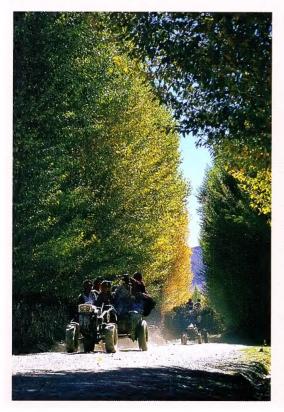
Lugu Lake is located between Yunnan's Ninglang County and Sichuan's Yanyuan County. It is 300 km away from Lijiang Old Town. With an altitude of 2,685 m and an area of 52 km², the lake is one of the most spectacular of all China's natural spots and is remarkably well preserved and maintained.

Lugu Lake is the home of the Mosuo minority, who are famous for their matriarchal social structure and "walking marriages". Most Mosuo men live with their mother and sisters; they only spend the



night at their spouses home and their kids are raised by their spouses' brothers. This kind of ancient family structure is regarded as the last quaint realm of matriarchy by scholars and specialists throughout the world. Hence the area around Lugu Lake is also called the "Female Kingdom".

Above and beyond this, the lake is famous for its natural beauty. It is surrounded by high and sublime mountains. The water of the lake is crystal clear and has different shades of colour: turquoise blue, sapphire blue, green and gray; its beauty is simply beyond one's imagination.



Daocheng and Yading Nature Reserve

Daocheng County is a mountainous region located in Garze Prefecture. Its main scenic attraction is the Yading Nature Reserve, situated at 3,700 to 4,100 m above sea level. Many regions in China have been compared to the literary Shangri-la, and Yading is no exception. Those who have visited the place claimed that the scenery in front of Chonggu Temple in Yading is exactly the same as the descriptions of Shangri-la in the novel The Lost Horizon.

Even if you are not a mania of Shangri-la, you will still find the sceneries stunning enough. Inside the reserve are three snow peaks at the altitude of 6,000 m, which are sanctified by the 5th Dalai Lama as the manifestations of bodhisattvas. Together with the three Sacred Lakes, namely Five Colour Lake, Milk Lake and Pearl Lake, this reserve is a fairyland. Among the three Lakes, Five Colour Lake earns the highest acclaim. It lies beneath the sheer precipice of Xiannari Mountain and has an amazing colour change of water.

At Yading, you should not miss the scenic view of Xiannairi Mountain from Chonggu Temple. From the Temple, you can either trek or ride on horse to experience the 2.5 km adventurous track to Luorong Yak Farm.



Mount Emei

Mount Emei is situated in southwestern Sichuan, 7 km from Emei City. It is one of China's four sacred Buddhist Mountains and has been a popular place of pilgrimage for the past 1,800 years. Legend has it that Bodhisattva Samantabhadra preached here. There were once 150 temples and monasteries on thes mountain. Today, only 30 remain and 20 of these modest shrines are still opened.

Although Mount Emei is hugely popular with pilgrims, the mountain is equally famous for its spectacular scenery. The word "Emei" in Chinese means "Eyebrows of beauty". Locals believe that the peaks of Emei resemble the eyebrows of a woman. The forested slopes, hot springs and wonderful views here could keep visitors for days.

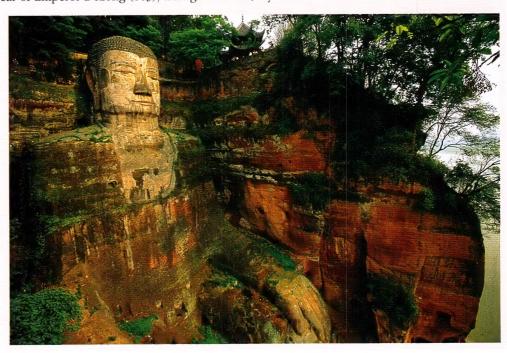
The mountain draws a throng of visitors; nonetheless, it is possible to escape the crowds and head off on some of the smaller trails, exploring at your own pace. This is a wonderful area, and its impressive scenery, mixed with the sight of monks and the sound of bells, makes it one of China's more interesting areas to explore and discover.

Leshan Giant Buddha

Leshan is a pretty little city situated in the southwest of Sichuan Province, quite close to Mount Emei. It is a pleasant place to visit and it has the biggest Buddha in the world — the Leshan Giant Buddha.

This Buddha sculpture sits at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers. According to records, the carving of this giant Buddha was begun in the first year of the reign of the Tang Emperor Tang Xuanzong (713), and completed in the 19th year of Emperor Dezong (803), taking a total of 90 years.

The Buddha is depicted barefooted with drooping ears and has his hair arranged in a spiral topknot. His chest is exposed and his hands rest on his knees. Looking dignified and solemn, the Buddha measures 71 m in height. His shoulders are 28 m wide and his instep, which is 8.5 m wide, can accommodate 100 people. In 1996, this sculpture was added to the World Natural and Cultural Heritage List.



FOCUS ON XINJIANG

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, all providing tourists with numerous attractions - ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert: Kanas Lake, a gem embedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak, the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak,

Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibe Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique and colourful culture



FOCUS ON SHAANXI

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tangdynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount

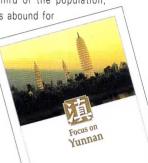
Huashan and the vellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



FOCUS ON YUNNAN

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate all year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangrila, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population,

opportunities abound for vou to see their characteristic cultures and customs.



The Call of China's West

FOCUS ON TIBET The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is a land of mystery for tourists, a land of wonders for explorers, a land of purity for Buddhists, and the ultimate challenge for mountaineers. Its beautiful landscapes, unique geographical features and rich cultural legacy continue to attract an increasing number of visitors.

The countless attractions of Tibet make it impossible to include them all in one book. This photographic publication offers an introduction to some of the Region's most celebrated features: the Potala Palace and its precious collection of cultural relics; the Jokhang Temple with strings of worshippers prostrating themselves before it; the Shoton Festival and the Sunning of Buddha ceremony; the ruins of the mystical Guge Kingdom; and the amazing Qiangtang Grassland.

At the same time, Focus on Tibet outlines the six major routes to Tibet and the many stunning landscapes found along the way.



FOCUS ON GUIZHOU

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huanquoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its

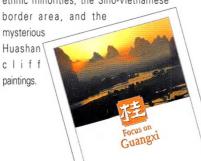
that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination



FOCUS ON GUANGXI

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach, Other attractions include the diverse traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese

mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	PRICE (surface postage included)			
	Local	Сору	Overseas	Сору
Focus On Tibet	HK\$84		HK\$96 / US\$12	
Focus On Xinjiang	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Shaanxi	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Yunnan	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Guizhou	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Focus On Guangxi	HK\$130		HK\$160 / US\$20	
Total				

- * For registered mail, add HK\$13 / US\$1.7.
- ** All of the above are hardbacks, except "Focus on Tibet".

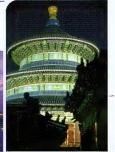
Subscriber's Information Name: Subscription No. (if applicable): Address: Daytime Tel.: E-mail: Payment: Credit card: □ VISA □ MASTER □ AE Credit card no.: Expiry date: Cardholder's signature:

Please mail your order form to: Hong Kong China Tourism Press 24/F. Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong; or fax to: (852) 2561 8196. For more information, please call (852) 2561 8001 or e-mail to mktg@hkctp.com.hk.

中國旅遊圖片庫

China Tourism Photo Library















We can help you to find what you need and enhance your creativity. Don't miss out, call us for further information.

E-mail: plib@hkctp.com.hk Tel: 852-2561 8001 Fax: 852-2561 8057